



# To What Extent do Social Networks Affect The University Students in Indonesia & Australia?

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## **Abstract**

*The purpose of this research is to investigate whether social networks affect university students' studies or not and to what extent do social networks affect them. It is very important for the university student to focus on their study because university is the place for preparing their future life. This study will focus on Indonesia and Australia because Indonesia is a developing country while Australia is a developed country and they are neighbour countries. The research for this investigation will include a survey of 100 students as representative of university students in Indonesia and Australia. The secondary resource for this investigation is internet search. The internet will provide the evidence to support the data from survey.*

*University students are active users in social network both in Indonesia and Australia. It may affect the students in positive and negative ways. The finding of this investigation would help students to prevent or reduce the negative effects of the social networks.*

*Keyword: Social Networks, Effect of Social Networks*

## **BACKGROUND OF STUDY**

Nowadays, social networks are very popular in the world. Most people use them to kill the time and to connect with people in the world. Social networks are used by many people of all ages, especially young people as social networks make it possible for them to contact and share their interest with their friends. This investigation will explore whether social networks have positive or negative impacts on students' study, especially to university students of both countries as they try to focus on planning their career for the future.

## **WHAT ARE SOCIAL NETWORKS?**

Social networks are the media for people to connect with other people via internet ([www.wikipedia](http://www.wikipedia)). They are made by individuals or organizations such as IT



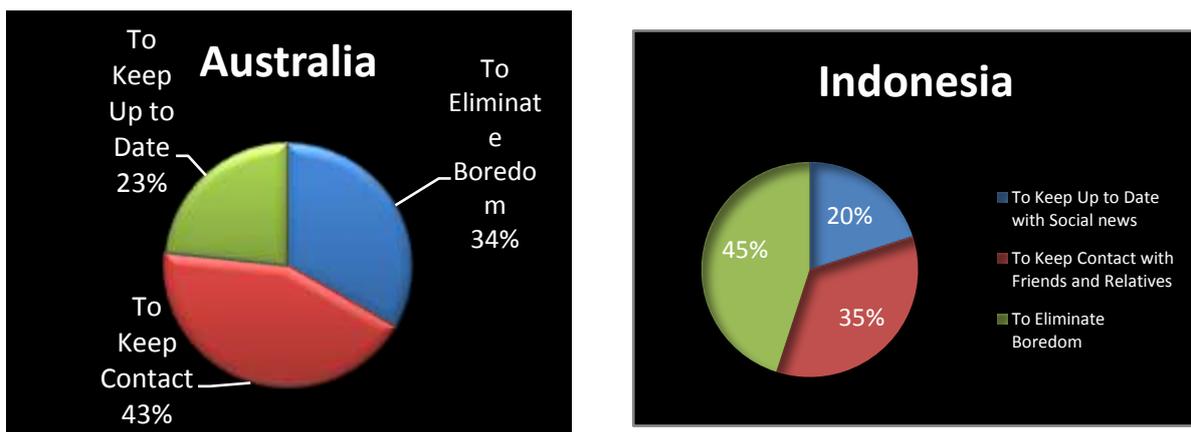
and/or multimedia students. There are more than 100 various kinds of social networks. Some of popular social networks in the world are Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, Blogspot, Path, Line, Whatssap, MSN, Yahoo Messenger, MySpace, and Skype ([www.wikipedia](http://www.wikipedia)).

### WHY ARE MOST UNIVERSITY STUDENTS LIKELY USE SOCIAL NETWORKS?

Social networks make it possible for people to interact with others easily even though those people live far away.

The representatives of Australian university students mostly stated that social networking helped them to keep contact with friends and relatives and to keep up to date with the social news (Survey 2013). While the representatives of Indonesian university students mostly stated the main purpose of using social network is to eliminate their boredom while in campus or other places.

**Figure 1: The Advantages of Social Networks-Survey results from 100 Participants in Australia and Indonesia**



This is the leading reason across university student age group; because in Indonesia people really need phone, not just for call or text but for update the social media. They stated that when they have nothing to do, they will automatically check their phone. They could check their Blackberry Messenger, Twitter, Path, Line and Instagram. They also stated that it also connects people who have same interest in some areas such as celebrities, movies, etc and helps people to find new friends and partners through internet.

### WHAT IS THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF SOCIAL NETWORKS ON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS?

- Social networks have several positive effects on students' studies. By being active in social networks, they are able to share information



quickly which can increase the productivity of communication and it also helps them learn how to work well in groups ([www.edudemic](http://www.edudemic)).

- Social networking teaches students the skills that they will need to survive in the business world. They will be able to create and make connections with many people in many industries which are necessary part of developing a career or building a business ([www.edudemic](http://www.edudemic)).
- In a record survey by psychologist, it shows that social media has also had a positive impact on students' sense of themselves in the community. Students who use social media were twice as likely as other students to feel well-liked by their peers and to participate in extracurricular activities and 20% more of students who use Facebook (as compared to students who did not use Facebook) said they felt connected to their school and community ([www.mashable](http://www.mashable)).
- The benefits of social networks in higher education will outweigh any anxiety over their use ([www.evollution](http://www.evollution))
- By spending so much time working with new technologies, students develop more familiarity with computers and other electronic devices. With the increased focus on technology in education and business, this will help students build skills that will aid them throughout their lives.

### **WHAT IS THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF SOCIAL NETWORKS ON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS?**

Social networks could have a negative impact on students' study. 80% of the Australian university students said that social networks affect their campus works in negative way (Survey, 2013).

- Many students rely on the accessibility of information on social media specifically and the web in general to provide answers. That means a reduced focus on learning and retaining information.
- They usually sit in front of their laptops and phones to check their social networks' notifications, to send unnecessary messages to their friends via social networks, to update their statuses, and much more. These actions automatically reduce and disturb their study time. By doing those actions, students could not focus on their study ([www.ivythesis](http://www.ivythesis)).
- 45 of 50 university students in Australia admitted that their study time has been reduced since they have connected to social media sites (Survey 2013).



- Psychologists have also stated that students who are logged on to Facebook while studying got grades 20% lower than non-Facebook users ([www.medindia](http://www.medindia.com)).
- Another negative impact is grammar and spelling. As university students, they need to do a lot of assignments which require proper spelling and grammar. The popularity of social media, and the speed at which information is published, has created a careless attitude towards proper spelling and grammar ([www.edudemic](http://www.edudemic.com)). Students used chat language such as lol (laugh out loud), msg (message), 2mor (tomorrow) and many more in social networks. If these become habits, it will affect their writing skills in campus works by putting this chat language into their essays and reports ([www.edudemic](http://www.edudemic.com)).
- Students, while searching and studying online, get attracted to using social media sites and sometimes they forget why they are using internet. This wastes their time and sometimes students are not able to deliver their work in the specified time frame.

## **METHODOLOGY**

To give the strong evidences of the research, survey was done and distributed to 100 university students by email which includes 50 students of each country. The ranging age of participants is from 19-24 and they are from different universities and different cultures.

## **CONCLUSION**

Results from the research show that social networks do affect university students' studies whether in Indonesia or Australia. With regard to positive effects, social networks increase the productivity of communication of students as they could share the information quickly, it also teaches students the skills that students will need in the future in order to survive in work as they will be able to make connection with new people. Unfortunately, the negative effects of social networking are disturbs students' focus as they more focus on their social networks than study and it has changed the attitude of students towards their writing skills in proper spelling and grammar. All of these negative effects will keep continuing if the students do not take any action to prevent these actions. Social networks will continue increase. Every year many individuals and organizations will keep creating new kind of social networks. They will keep trying to create the best and the most effective social networks. That is why students need to reduce their addiction on social networks in order to survive in the real world later after graduate from university.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

There are some recommendations for university students to balance the campus life and social networking. As suggested by some Australian university students, students should try to manage their time well and spend only 1-2 hours in social networking and then study more (Survey 2013). Students also need to have an agenda, and write down what they will study one day, how much time they will study and at what time. They also suggested if students could not avoid social networks at home, they could study more in school so they could continue social networking at home freely (Survey 2013). People around the students also need to have a role in balancing students' campus life and social networking. The parents should check and balance on their children when they use the internet. They should be on guard whether they are using it for appropriate time period or not. The peers and lecturers should also help students make them aware of the negative effects and explain what they are losing in the real world by sticking to these social networking sites.

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## APPENDIX.

The questions of survey as written below:

Topic: Social Networks

1. Do you know what “Social Network” is?

Yes  No

2. Do you think you are addicted (hard for you to stop using) to social networks?

Yes  No  Maybe

3. What kind of social networks do you have? (You can tick more than 1 box)

Facebook  MSN  Yahoo Messenger  Ormspring

Twitter  MySpace  Skype

Other\_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you use them every day?

Yes  No

5. How long do you spend your time on social networks during each university day on average?

Less than 1 hour  3 hours

1-2 hours  Other\_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you think there are advantages of social networks to you?

Yes  No

7. What do you think the advantages in using social networks for you?

To keep contact with friends and relatives

To eliminate the boredom

To keep update up to date with the social news

Other\_\_\_\_\_

8. Do you think your study habits have changed since social networks came to your life?

Yes  No  I don't Know



**9. Please be honest, does social networking effect your campus work in any way?**

Yes     No

**10. Social networks change your study time at night**

I strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

I strongly disagree

**11. Social networking is one reason that causes you submit your assignments late?**

Yes     Maybe     No

**12. You are on social networks until late night and too lazy to wake up in the morning for school?**

True                       False

**13. Can you balance campus life and social networking?**

Yes                       No

**What advice would you give to your friend to try and balance school life and social networking?**

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