EXTENDED SUMMARY

Developments and transformations in ICT, the opportunities provided by the internet has effected people’s, especially young adults, communication channels, socializing tools and online world circumstances. Internet and the accompanying technological widening brought networking and thus born the network sites. One of the pioneering technologies that enables setting of the social networks, Web 2.0 helps to simplify interaction and communication via the social interaction, collaboration and sharing among individuals. Social networks are the virtual community created by humankind online. In this networks, people can define themselves, find other individuals from same cultural level with who they can easily interact, and communicate with other via opportunities created by internet. Social networks, that’s are so integrated with the human life, are also crucial to education. There are both pros and cons of the social networks in many viewpoints. It is crucial to determine the aims of using social networks in view of research that study positive and negative effects of social networks sites. Furthermore, holding the information of usage aims of social network sites will contribute to determine the motivational elements that makes people use the social network sites and create successful social network sites. In addition to this, it’s been thought that knowledge of usage aims of social network sites will serve as a mentor for those who defines social network sites as a pedagogical tool that supports collaborative learning.

Thus, the aim of this study is to determine the usage aims of social network sites by the social studies preservice teachers in view of different variables (gender, class, ownership of smartphones and time spent on social network sites).

This study has been done by using survey method. Survey methods are approaches that aims to describe a situation as it is, whether it is in the past of present. Study group is consisted of 272 preservice teacher, having education in Gazi University Gazi Educational Faculty Department of Social Studies, as voluntarily. The data is collected by “Personal data form” developed by the researchers and “Scale of Usage Purposes of Social Network Sites” developed by Karal and Kokoç (2010). Statistical analyzes are done by using IBM SPSS 21.0 and the meaningfulness level is accepted as \(p \leq 0.05\).

Results have shown that male Social Studies Preservice Teacher (SSPT)’s uses social networks sites to know and be known, while female SSPT’s uses for educational purposes. It’s been found that when compared to 1st or 2nd graders, 4th grade students uses social network sites for more educational purposes. The variable of ownership of a smart phone’s effect of using social network sites for social interaction and communication, as well as to know and be known has been found. It’s been seen that SSPT’s who have the ownership of a smart phone are uses social network sites for social interaction and communication than SSPT’s who do not own a smart phone. SSPT’s who spends more time on social network sites are seen to use social network sites for the purposes of social interaction, communication, to know and be known and for educational purposes than SSPT’s who spends less time on social network sites.

Some proposals can be made under the light of the findings. Studies can be done in each level of education in order to increase the usage of social network sites for the educational purposes by both male and female students. Thus, the differences between the genders and class grades can be minimized. Furthermore, making preservice teachers use the social network as a support for their lectures in the faculty can be useful in many other viewpoints. Finally, studies can be done about usage aims of social network sites via different samples and different departments.