

## ONLINE EDUCATIONAL WORKING GROUPS.WHAT CAN STUDENTS' "FACEBOOK" REVEAL?

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### ABSTRACT

Social media are now affecting all sectors of modern societies. We tried to investigate, how critically these networks are affecting education and furthermore, which is the relevant number of an effective online group of students. We know that, within a classroom a group of 4-5 students is the most effective, for a well performing project. But, which is the relevant number of students working online, from their homes? How many students can simultaneously collaborate online on the same project? In order to find the answer, we focused on students' social media. The main objects of our investigation were "Facebook" type networks, of students aged 14 to 18 years old. We inquired on the number of friends, number of active connections and "network density". We found that, for networks, counting 200-1000 members, there is a linear dependence of the "network density", to the number of members. For smaller networks, the relevant "network density" seems to increase asymptotically, mainly because members know each other very well, while for larger networks, the consistency is very low. We focused on networks, counting 300-600 student members finding that, the ideal size of a functional and strongly interactive online working group is about 20 members.

**KEYWORDS:** Social Networks, Socio Cultural Method, Education, Internet, Pedagogy, Online Research, Network Density, Communication