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**THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL NETWORKS ON THE ASSESSMENT OF  
VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS: A STUDY FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES  
DEGREES**

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**Abstract**

This paper deepens in the study of the appropriateness of virtual learning environments through the use and value of social networks by college students, considering the reliability, confidence and experience of the Internet. The study develop a comprehensive structural equation model conducted among 381 college students of different Social Sciences degrees of the University of A Coruna (Spain). The results show that both topical social network and the Internet have a significant influence on college students' virtual learning environment assessment, regardless the area of study. The analysis also discloses the potential utility of the above interactions on virtual learning environments in terms of downloading of material, improvement in learning efficiency and usefulness of contents, functions and supplement of other learning ICT tools. Findings reveal that the implementation of educational policies that allow adapting virtual learning environments to college students' preferences are required.

**Keywords:** Virtual learning environment, social networks, higher education, social sciences, Spain.

**JEL Classification:** A2, I2

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