

THE ESSENCE OF INFORMATION LITERACY IN THE CURRENT EDUCATIONAL CLIMATE OF THE COUNTRY

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Students need various kinds of literacy to reach their full potential. Many types of literacy have become more accessible as a result of technological advancements, and students are exposed to technology on a daily basis. Because we live in the digital age, we must emphasize the balance of literacy and the use of modern technology, so students should be taught not only how to use technology for information dissemination, but also how to comprehend or understand other types of information, whether online or offline. Students come from different backgrounds, so they have different experiences and ways of learning.

In line with that, we must equip students to recognize which information is viable and train them to have the ability to locate, evaluate, and effectively use the information. Especially nowadays, there is "fake news" and it proliferates on social media. We all know that students nowadays spend too much time on social media, so if we train them to be literate in recognizing which information is of use to them and which information is misleading, they must understand that for it to be useful, there must be claims backed up with thoughts based on research or facts. It is important for students to know that they must ensure that they only utilize and disseminate information that will help them learn things inside or outside the school because the information they gather online or offline will add up continually to their growth, may it be based on personal knowledge or educational reasons. The most important part of information literacy is for students to be able to compile information that is reliable and valid for them and for other people. Yet, it is difficult for them to do that because they are bombarded with too much information

on a daily basis, making it hard to process which ones are reliable and which ones are just uninformed opinions. Therefore, it is best if students nowadays are trained in this matter. They should be taught how to eliminate untrustworthy information as well as information that is not valid or beneficial to them.

There is this article from microsoftnews.com by Susana Victoria Perez (2008) which states that fake news is disseminated 90% more than real news. That article expresses that most people on social media are not aware, or they are aware, but they do not invest time in testing or evaluating if the information they are being given is reliable or valid. As an example, Kevin Litman Navarro, in his article at INVERSE.com, said that in a study published in Science by researchers Soroush Vosoughi, Deb Roy, and Sinan Aral, they assembled a dataset of around 126,000 news stories that were shared on Twitter collectively more than 4.5 million times. The lie reached 1,500 people nearly six times faster than the truth. It is important for us, for everyone to be able to validate information, offline or online, because it will be dangerous if we are disseminating information that is not real and, in turn, convince other people who will be reading it that it is valid because they see us as someone who is reliable and has the ability to validate that information for them.

In relation to that, as an educator who has social media accounts, it is unsafe to post or disseminate unverified information on those platforms because students, especially, see us as people who can or who will post information that will be of use and value, so if we post information that is unreliable or something that may not be true, that would be very dangerous because those students will see it as valid information. Lastly, after all, we are seen as people who do not just read information from the Internet but also validate if those sources cited are real or based on real data.

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