

THE IMPORTANCE OF DIGITAL LITERACY TO TEACHERS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

by:

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It is reasonable to anticipate that the more technologically literate our instructors are, the more they will utilize these talents in the classroom, fostering in our kids a strong sense of digital citizenship. Teachers integrate the educational and technological systems by introducing digital literacy in the classroom. Digital literacy emphasizes the capacity to locate, evaluate, and utilize information using digital means such as social media, web browsers, and online discussion forums. Digital literacy is advantageous for both students and instructors since it may foster academic advancement and educate students how to use digital technologies efficiently in all aspects of their lives.

According to Rastogi (2021), digital literacy is usually understood to be a person's capacity to locate meaningful material, assess it critically, and transmit it electronically or digitally. It may also be characterized as digital world knowledge and awareness. Teachers cannot ignore the significance, usefulness, and necessity of digital literacy in the 21st century. It is imperative that school and district leaders encourage digital literacy among teachers to prevent rules that merely dictate placing technology in the hands of children without regard for how it will be utilized.

Teachers that are digitally savvy perceive technology for its creative possibilities, rather than as something they are required to perform. Digital literacy does not need teachers to become specialists, but it does necessitate an understanding of the digital technologies that might unlock their deeper teaching potential. Indeed Editorial Team (2021) stated that the implementation of digital literacy in the classroom provides pupils efficient techniques for locating reputable information. Teachers may assist students in

recognizing when websites include biased or erroneous information, allowing them to avoid these sites and locate materials from credible sources.

In addition, educators may teach students how to credit their sources and how to produce online citations using effective teaching tactics. Providing students with access to some of this knowledge in an academic context enables them to engage with the perspectives of others who may have opposing viewpoints to their own. Teachers may utilize these situations to educate students how to appropriately respond to new perspectives and ideas. Teachers may also instruct and inspire kids to become responsible digital citizens. Plagiarism in the classroom and cyberbullying are the two main difficulties that arise in the context of digital abuse in education (Ghosh, 2021).

Furthermore, a teacher that is digitally savvy may use multiple applications and information to provide a more comprehensive and effective instruction. Keeping in mind the variety of pupils, the instructor may design lesson plans and methods of instruction that are optimal for each student. Digitally literate educators are in a position to offer significant advice to education-based technology developers regarding instructional procedures or particular subjects. This increases both the quality and quantity of valuable data for instructional purposes. Digitally literate educators can even share their knowledge with their colleagues, therefore improving educational standards.

Literacy now extends beyond the development of reading and writing abilities in K-12 classroom. It must foster digital proficiency, which encourages critical thinking, learning outside of the classroom, and effective communication. The digital age is permanent. Whether or not we expose and educate our students for the problems and hazards that come with living with technology, they will have to confront them. Consequently, it is undoubtedly preferable to teach kids the abilities they need to be safe and flourish.

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