

DUSTY COVERS AND FADED INK: THE IMPORTANCE OF BOOKS IN A DIGITAL WORLD

by:
Bernadette M. Medina

The birth of modernity and the digitalization of the world has changed humanity and our way of life. It provided convenience and innovations and became the vehicle that took us on the journey to further development. However, while digitalization came with plenty of advantages, it also brought drawbacks. It has made humanity too reliant on machines and gadgets, fostering laziness and indifference. Various research has also proven that too much exposure and use of technology and social media have detrimental effects on both physical and psychological health. The internet has changed how we value, approach, and deliver education. In the last thirty years, blackboards, chalks, pens, and paper were replaced by laptops, mobile phones, tablets, and screens. People of today look up anything and everything using different search engines. The days of seeking knowledge and information in books seem like forever ago.

For centuries, books played the role of humanity's treasure chest. Books contain endless information and facts and hold records of the history of mankind, civilization, and the world itself. Through books, we can pass on knowledge from one generation to another. Many have also lived the lives of various characters and seen the world through their eyes as they read different novels. Books are gifts that never stop giving. However, as human progress and modernity took over, books and their role were cast aside. People, especially the youth of today would rather spend hours playing games on their gadgets than reading books. Because of this, many suffer from illiteracy and poor comprehension. Various search engines give billions of answers in one click, a double-edged sword of

convenience and sloth. As books were left on the shelves, their covers collect dust, and the ink on their pages fades, their importance in this digital world is lost.

However, the purpose and significance of books in disseminating knowledge remain the same. Books help sharpen our minds, develop our reading, writing, and even speaking skills, and improve imagination, creativity, and memory. They make us think deeper, analyze, visualize information better, and most of all, see beyond what the eyes see. They give us a glimpse of the past, details of the present, and predictions and hopes for the future. Books improve vocabulary, hone focus, and cultivate critical thinking. Books should not and will not be forgotten. They are a part of humanity's story and the story of how we arrived where we are today.

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