

## **SOCIAL MEDIA: BENEFICIAL OR NOT TO THE LEARNERS**

*by:*

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With the continuous development of modernization, the way of communication and gathering of news and knowledge is changing. With the change of times and the arrival of modern communication technology such as social media and the internet, the minds of students became aware of this modern way towards a better future. Many young people today are addicted to social media because of the fun or entertainment it brings that's why almost all of them have social media accounts.

According to dictionary, social media are interactive technologies that make it easier to create and share content across virtual communities and networks, including information, ideas, interests, and other kinds of expression. Are social media really helpful or they are just obstacles to learning? Of course, this form of involvement will need to have noticeable results. Naturally, there are some beneficial impacts and some negative aspects.

Social Media serve as ways to better organize the things we are used to and expand the scope of our knowledge. It is of great help to our learners especially in the research aspect. There is no need to go to library to dig through multiple books to get bits of information in each book. You simply type in the topics and click "ok" and you will find what you are looking for.

Another benefit is the fast communication. The learners are not with their teachers all the time. But with the help of social media applications, they can ask their teachers if they have questions that are not answered in their class. In short, learners can send the

message they want to convey in just a second. Virtual classrooms and e-books are also advantageous to continue learning especially in these times of pandemic.

While social media has numerous advantages, it also has drawbacks. Social media is a great platform for raising awareness for a variety of events and tasks. With the wide availability of people from different backgrounds, it's easier for people spread disinformation. As a result, it is now a major burden for learners to verify the credibility of the sources they engage with. Addiction to social media platforms is also a struggle to the learners. This lead to neglect their time for study and worse, cyberbullying can increase depression and anxiety which greatly affect the mental health of the learners.

In today's world, social media has evolved into both a blessing and an affliction. It must depend on the person's choice to interact with it. Be an intelligent and a responsible social media user!

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