

DIGITAL AND INFORMATION LITERACY

by:

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The common belief that the younger generation is more digitally literate because they are more tech-savvy is not true. Digital and information literacy varies all over the world. In the research that took place in a secondary school in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, involving 193 learners from grades 10 and 11, it showed that most learners had significantly low digital and information literacy. The most difficult point for the participants was the assembly of online information, this means that learners do not often know which online resources are trustworthy and which are not.

Moreover, the said research indicates that digital and information literacy is a serious problem often overlooked by schools. And, even in the developed countries, where the level of digital literacy might be higher, it will still be uneven because it also depends on the social stratum from which the learner comes and how often they interact with technology.

Currently, digital and information literacy is a big problem, and there are many reasons why schools around the world should pay more attention to it including:

1. It assesses the quality of information.

We live in an age when most resources are being moved online. And it comes in handy, helping the learners to study from anywhere in the world, especially during the times of crisis, when all that learners can do is online learning.

However, the recent shift to remote education has revealed significant gaps in digital and information literacy among learners.

According to the study by Bridgewater State University, they confirmed that learners could not differentiate a high-quality source of information from those that cannot be trusted. And, their parents could not help them in doing their assignments because they are not digitally literate themselves.

All this shows the utter necessity for the school curriculum to include special courses on digital literacy, which would also teach learners how to protect themselves online from different cyber threats.

2. It contributes to a successful future career.

The level of digital and information literacy also has a significant impact on becoming successful at one's career. Most workplaces around the world rely on technology, and learners need to be prepared that technology will be an inalienable part of their future careers.

The study by EdWeek proves this point as it revealed that the workers needed some form of digital and information literacy to perform their tasks properly regardless of their position.

3. It facilitates lifelong learning.

Knowledge to technology is one of the skills that are essential at any point of our lives and is not exclusive only to a high-school or college experience. When the learners graduate from school, learning will never stop. They will start their professional life, as it will help them advance in their careers and simply become more well-rounded and knowledgeable.

For lifelong learning to bring the expected benefits, it is important for every learner to know how to operate online resources and use technology to their advantage. This is the guarantee of the continuous growth of every nation.

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