

TEACHING SOCIAL SCIENCE AMIDST MODERN INFORMATION

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Tomorrow, the society will be even more technologically progressive than it is now. Further than the advancement of devices, the way of living – education, morals and beliefs – are intensely propagated to transform. The chronically online society, from communities to classrooms and families, often source their information from social media, where its availability is within quick reach. The heightened threat is how social media has evolved into a breeding ground for fake news, false narratives, and historical revisionism that weaken the basic foundation of rational decision. Social media has been utilized to advance easily distributive, invalid information. The medium's intrinsic algorithm has also promoted false information, distorted collective memory and cemented urban legends. How can students and young adults, who also take their example from misinformed elders, know any better when little to no concepts of social sciences are taught?

While social media diminishes the focus and attention that students should otherwise devote into their education, this challenge should be faced through its own medium – where education of social studies will penetrate the online media. It is important too that the significance of social sciences is not watered down or restricted to courses with direct relation to it; for the society to learn the weight of these studies, they must know that the entirety of social sciences benefits not just students but citizens. The teachings and values of social sciences are not limited within the four corners of a classroom, it bypasses and goes beyond the borders of countries, cultures, religions and languages. Social sciences encourage civic engagement, cultivate critical thinking, foster character development, and help students understand their role as citizens in a

democratic country, as such these should be a part of the curriculum, and spread through online platforms and media.

When students are enabled to be involved in their future and the welfare of their nation, they will take the initiative to bring their learnings online, contributing not just as learners, but as citizens of their country. Furthermore, social sciences are frames of references where students can learn from the mistakes committed by other nations or their own. However, before social studies are brought online and onto the streets, it should overcome the hardships they face first. According to Owen (1997) as cited in Friedrich (2014), educators should find a way to stimulate eagerness in learning social studies. They reiterated that the notion among students to equate disinterest with unimportance should be abolished, as the foremost enemy of social studies is ignorance. Consequently, Bhatnagar (2018) recommended that concepts taught in social studies should be related to real events as examples in order for students to not just learn it, but understand and analyze its manifestations in the society.

When teachings of social studies are transformed in schools, only then can it thrive in modern information. However, this phase of progress should be well investigated too. In the Philippines, digital literacy is another problem. Morato (2022) defined digital literacy as an individual's capacity to seek, analyze and scrutinize information found in media and digital platforms. The abilities required to study and survive in a world where information accessibility is drastically expanding due to digital technologies like the internet, social media, and even our own mobile devices are demonstrated by digital literacy. In a continuously progressing country, digital literacy is an essential tool to equip, especially for those who actively exposed to media.

The correlation between social sciences and modern information cannot be separated. The concepts taught in social studies are keys to freedom and democracy, they divulge social issues and shred from its roots to branches; while modern information is its medium, the messenger in which the lessons from these subjects are distributed,

shared and updated. In these challenging currents of events, one must be openly aware to the activities of their present, while simultaneously anticipating for a better future – one that is humane, progressive and critical.

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