

## SOCIAL MEDIA: MODERN WAY OF LEARNING

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Social media started as a mean of communication between distant friends or relatives. In the early 2000, people communicated using mails or the use of cellular phones. Phones during that time were not comprehensive. It cannot connect to internet which makes communication limited. But nowadays, mobile phones or any other gadget makes it easier using social media. Facebook, Instagram and Twitter are few examples of this. These secures our contact with our friends and family that is why almost everyone has access to these platforms.

From pre-schoolers to adults, everyone has engaged into using social media. It practically covers all age group. Most adults use it for entertainment purposes or for work related concerns. Children use it mostly for entertainment while students use it for both entertainment and school matters.

Now that online learning has been introduced to students, they have been more exposed to the online world. It became part of their daily routine. According to a study conducted by Abrenica, J. et al (2021), females spend twice more time on social media than males. They use it mostly on socializing with friends and family. On the other hand, men use it mostly on information gathering to build influence. They use it most of the time to relieve stress and take off their mind from problems. Though students utilize social media for these matters, they have also integrated it as part of their learning techniques. In a study of Tus, J. et al (2021), students has high usage of these platform for academic purposes. They exchange ideas, do research work and discuss among

themselves topics for incoming examination. They utilize these tools for the betterment of their academics. In contrary to this, they rarely use it for researching current events.

The world's acceptance of social media is now changing education. It became our strongest medium of communication. While this is good, we cannot ignore that it also has a negative side. Social media and education can go hand in hand if used effectively since technology keeps on bringing educational possibilities for students (Singh, A., 2021).

An article posted by The Freeman (2019), social media can be beneficial for students in terms of easy access to tons of information. Lectures and homework are within hands reach. Advancements on their core subjects are readily available and discussion among peers are quick and easy. In addition to these, they get familiar and they get to practice new features of technology.

These positive points are accompanied by negative ones. Long exposure on social media minimizes a student's interaction with his friends. This might be bad for their communication development. Since the platforms are packed with knowledge, they might become too dependent and have lack of information retention. They might also be tempted to do other activities resulting to lack of focus and reduced academic performance. And lastly, there is a danger of over sharing of private information.

Every tool is beneficial depending on the way we use it. Social media is a really powerful tool but it should be guided. Parents and teachers should be well versed with these platforms so they can utilize it for better learning experience of our young generation.

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