

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP IN THE SCHOOL

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Today's world has been altered by the rise of digital technology. This is even heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic that obliged the education sector to conduct half of its processes online. In 2020, when the coronavirus disease brought threats to public health, school closures became the solution of all governments around the world to protect both students and teachers. At present, even though the world is slowly gaining its normal state, some processes, services, and activities are still being conducted online.

Despite the fact that we interact and live in the digital world similar to the offline one, we are not always as aware of our online behavior. We occasionally take actions without considering how they might impact our reputation, safety, and development as digital citizens. Digital media also give everyone special chances to participate, voice their opinions, and affect change both online and offline. This is why digital citizenship is important to be integrated into the curriculum.

According to Zook (2022), anyone who uses computers, the Internet, or other digital devices to interact with society on any level is considered to be practicing digital citizenship, which is the responsible use of technology. The world as a whole is growing more dependent on the Internet for daily activities as the rate of technological innovation continues to rise. This makes it essential to cover it with today's learners. Good digital citizenship teaches learners how to use digital tools to communicate with one another, empathize with one another, and build long-lasting connections. On the other hand, poor digital citizenship includes things like online bullying, careless social media use, and general ignorance of safe Internet usage practices.

Individuals are encouraged through digital citizenship education to utilize their knowledge and skills. In this way, students are able to practice and communicate their digital skills in a good way. As per AU School of Education (2022), people handle their finances, communicate with friends, and fulfill their work duties online. Students must become digitally literate in order to succeed in a world that is controlled by technology. They must be able to use interactive digital tools, search networks, and technology in an effective and safe manner. Teaching students digital literacy helps to prepare them for their future, as using digital technology is a must for almost every employment.

References:

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