MISINFORMATION AND THE AGE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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One of the most pressing issues among the youth nowadays is misinformation. Fake news has been rampant in social media. In the age of information technology, it is essential to teach our students how to detect the truth from faux. One of the primary causes is the rise in the number of applications designed to make editing simple. That makes it simpler to trick people, including the most sophisticated and discriminating audience.

As smartphones become more affordable and widely available to the market, Beren (2022) stated that the youths have easier access now to social media platforms including social networking sites. It has gotten simpler to post anything, whether or whether it is noteworthy, thanks to social media's transformation into a digital hangout, bulletin board, and newsroom all in one. 54% of teenagers, according to a 2019 survey, acquire their news from social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Another Common Sense Media study revealed that about 31% of children who shared something online later discovered it to be fraudulent. People, especially young people, now value themselves on these social media platforms based on how many engagements they get. Unfortunately, fake news does increase their interactions because it is biased and emotionally charged, and readers are more likely to engage with pieces that are interesting and catchy. The goal of fake news is to generate as many likes and shares as possible. That is a formula for disaster when combined with a person's need for approval and satisfaction (Beren, 2022).

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This data revealed that Information Literacy should be promoted in schools. Information literacy is defined by Skyline College (2023) as the capacity to locate, assess, organize, use, and transmit information in all of its varied forms, especially when it comes to circumstances demanding judgment, problem-solving, or knowledge acquisition. It combines communication skills, computer technology abilities, research skills, and critical thinking skills. In order to succeed academically, professionally, and as informed citizens in society, one must be literate in information.

At the present time, students should be taught of the strategies on how they can use correct information in the most proper manner. They should also be educated on how to distinguish facts from faux so that they would not be victims of fake news.

References:

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