

THE EFFECT OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO STUDENT'S SOCIAL AND ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Do social network sites (SNS) affect the psychological well-being of adolescents? Do media affect learning development? Do video games make children violent? These are the structural questions for the “millennial” as how we address the teenagers of this generation regarding their social and academic development.

The youth ranked first when it comes to using social network sites. Studies show their lives revolved around social media. These are the children who do not experience getting dirty with their neighbors. There were various ways youths at present can interact with one another. These ways are features of social network sites (SNS) such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Adolescents use social media in vast numbers. There were surveys that most teenagers were more engaged on the use of online sites for the past three years which show that most of them were active based from the result of the survey. Youths who are connected to these social media are both an alarming prospect for parents and teachers. Parents complain that their children imitate what they learn on social media. How they dress, act, even the language they used were derived from what they see on SNS. Teachers also protested the behavior of these youths. They are out of control. Their academic development has been halted by social media. A grade 8 learner had difficulty spelling simple words due to social media influence. Many scholars suggest that students learn in new ways using social media and that teachers should face these new technologies which they are not very equipped with. Nevertheless, most school districts block access to SNS, while parents remain fearful about safety and effects on their children's social and academic development.

According to many researchers and scholars, technology is a structuring factor. Features of a technology, not the technology, enable and constrain how one student uses media. In addition, social pressure and behavioral practices influence how an adolescent ultimately uses social media. The SNS itself does not cause outcomes such as psychological well-being, social and academic development. Rather the attitude and discipline of the users is the dilemma itself. Imitation from social network sites is rampant. What they see, they do. They say what they view. Therefore, it is the collective effort and duty of the parents and anyone who are older at home and even in the community to discipline and guide these students on the usage of social media to prevent the effect of social media on the students' social and academic development.

References:

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The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan