

CRAFTING RESEARCH PAPERS USING SMARTPHONES: STRATEGIES FOR STUDENT SURVIVAL

by:

BRYAN C. SILVESTRE

Teacher II, Samal National High School – Senior High School

Students of Samal National High School – Senior High School in Samal, Bataan, have been using the smartphone as an efficient tool in the preparation of their research papers. Given that students do not have adequate access to other conventional technologies like computers and printers, many of them rely solely on their mobile to obtain literature that applies to their topic, check grammar, and formulate their research accordingly. Despite all these challenges, including storage challenges and sometimes dysfunction of a telephone, the learners are still adapting and using their smartphones to the fullest. Mobile technology is proved to be a very valuable tool for resource-constrained learners due to the significant educational benefits it provides regarding the resources, according to Husnita et al. (2023).

A prevalent tactic utilized by students involves the acquisition of mobile data valued at a mere 50 pesos to gain access to online research materials. This data enables them to download various scholarly articles, journals, and other academic resources, frequently facilitating information sharing with their colleagues via messaging applications. Nevertheless, this method is not without its limitations, particularly regarding the constrained storage capacity of their devices, which tends to become rapidly filled due to downloads and additional applications. Consequently, smartphones may sometimes hang or freeze that the user cannot use it during the time. According to studies conducted by Ellahi (2021), although smartphones provide increased access, technical constraints hindrances hinder productivity and the quality performed.

To these challenges, students employ resourceful approaches. Mostly, they forgo personal folders with photographs or videos to seek more space to fulfill their academic requirements. Many other students prefer free services such as Messenger for purposes of uploading and sharing where possible besides saving their papers for later viewing and revising purposes. Where fundamental changes are necessary, some individuals borrow laptops from school libraries or friends and these are pretty good indications of resourcefulness. According to Sun et al. (2022), efficient utilization of technology enhances resilience and cultivates students' problem-solving abilities.

The support of the community is instrumental in the survival strategies employed by students. Certain individuals pursue help from nearby youth organizations, including the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), to promote initiatives for complimentary printing services or additional academic assistance programs. Others collaborate to gather funds for the acquisition of paper and printing materials, which alleviates financial burdens. Through the integration of personal endeavors with community-driven efforts, students are able to surmount considerable challenges in fulfilling their academic obligations. According to Cagatan and Quirap (2024), cooperative efforts among students, educational institutions, and the community lead to great improvement in academics.

Despite their struggles, Samal National High School – Senior High School graduates proved to be a determined and hardy crop of learners at every turn in their schooling. Creative uses for smartphones by the students would bring hope for using mobile technology as an educational tool that needs better supports to overcome some of the challenges it poses. The more the educators and other stakeholders recognize these efforts, the more support they can offer students in not only tolerating but excelling in their pursuit of academic success.

References:

Ellahi (2021). Bedtime Smart Phone Usage and Its Effects on Work-Related Behaviour at Workplace. Volume 12 - 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.698413>

Cagatan & Quirap (2024). Collaborative Learning and Learners' Academic Performance. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/379522411_Collaborative_Learning_and_Learners'_Academic_Performance

Husnita et al. (2023). The Role of Mobile Technology in Improving Accessibility and Quality of Learning. AL-FIKRAH: Jurnal Manajemen Pendidikan, 11(2) - December 2023 259-271.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/377216787_The_Role_of_Mobile_Technology_in_Improving_Accessibility_and_Quality_of_Learning

Sun H, Yuan C, Qian Q, He S, Luo Q. Digital Resilience Among Individuals in School Education Settings: A Concept Analysis Based on a Scoping Review. Front Psychiatry.

2022 Mar 31;13:858515. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2022.858515. PMID: 35432032; PMCID:

PMC9008236.