

NET GENERERS: HOLISTIC LEARNERS IN THE DIGITAL ERA

by:

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Learners not only need to know how to read, write, speak, or listen, but should know how to be digitally inclined so we can consider them as literate in this digital world – the digital age. They should be equipped with this as this digitalization is already dominating the life they live

According to UNESCO in 2005, literacy is the ability to understand and interpret data using printed and written materials to participate in full in the society. But, as people and the world evolve, the definition of literacy also evolves. As we are exposed to the emerging information and communication technologies in all aspects of our everyday lives, experts have included technology in the definition of literacy. We can now define it as more than the mastery of the four skills which are reading, writing, speaking, and listening, but the understanding of technology use as a medium (Smyth, 2021). Its meaning has included expressions digitally, electronically, and visually (Gentry & McAdams, 2013).

With that, the net geners ((Turner & Carriveau, 2010) or the digital natives (Prensky, 2001) being referred to the learners today as they are exposed to these digital tools from the day they were born, should now master the four macro skills and digital literacy for them to be holistic learners. All these five should work all together to develop competitive learners in their academic life, and their real life outside school. These five, when mastered, could cause them to communicate and comprehend effectively in this digital era. These could serve as their basic foundational skills in this demanding modern workforce.

Therefore, as teachers to these learners, we should integrate in our teaching strategy macroskills and digital skills development strategies. We should combine our knowledge of pedagogy, content, and technology to produce an environment required by this age (Prensky, 2010); and we should use technology in revolutionizing instruction and transforming learning experiences (Resnick, 2002). In this way, we can further expose them to these kinds of experiences which could lead them into being holistically honed and molded learners ready for the challenges of the digital era.

This digital era requires literate net geners. And it is in our hands to produce them.

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