

DIGITAL ETHICS AND PRIVACY: AWARENESS AMONG LEARNERS AND THEIR PARENTS

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Republic Act No. 10173 also known as the Data Privacy Act of 2012 is an act protecting individual personal information in information and communications systems in the government and the private sector, creating for this purpose a national privacy commission, and for other purposes. Although there is an act about data privacy, everyone must be aware of the digital ethics to protect one own's data as much as possible.

Today, with the help of technology and with a strong connection to the internet, by adding some filters in the search bar and with just one click, you can look for someone else's information. Phone numbers are easily used by other individuals to scam people under somebody else's name. Others use IP addresses as scapegoats for their crimes. Some individuals gained money or recognition as they took someone else's work or intellectual property.

That is why, in school, teachers must continuously conduct an orientation regarding digital ethics and privacy both for the learners and parents as some of them can't identify what are the links that may leak their information. In addition to this, some of them didn't know how to give proper credit for the images, articles, videos, and other materials that they uploaded online.

According to Zur Institute, digital ethics is the study of how to manage oneself ethically and professionally. It should be thoroughly discussed with learners and parents because they may be a victims of different crimes, may experience or cause

misunderstandings, or worse – plagiarism (if they didn't give proper credit to someone else's work).

As claimed by Ess (2009) and Himma and Tavani (2008), digital (information) ethics are intellectual property, privacy, security, information overload, digital divide, gender discrimination, and censorship. Intellectual property includes published articles, journals, and many more. If they are going to get some information from the internet, proper citations must be included or attached. Privacy and security include phone numbers, home address, and their other locations. Information overload are those terms and conditions. In this, learners and parents must be reminded that they should read it in order to be sure what they are going into, clicking into, or purchasing off. The digital divide means those who have access to the internet and those who don't. Discrimination regarding someone's gender or health status is also a crime. Censorship is obscene, politically unacceptable and a threat to security.

According to the New Zealand Digital Strategy (2008), there is an urgent need for the key players in a digital future i.e. learners and teachers. Also, it was eloquently stated by Marshall (2006), critically, capability includes the ability of an institution to sustain e-learning delivery and the support of learning and teaching as demand grows and staff change. With different circumstances that hinder the face to face set up (such as natural calamities like earthquakes, heatwaves, floods, thunderstorms, and tropical cyclones), together with the school and its teaching staff, parents may be included in sustaining education through different delivery modes. They must be also equipped with the knowledge regarding digital ethics and the skills on how to identify and secure one's personal information as well as properly cite someone else's work.

Teachers have the opportunity to help the learners and parents in addressing their concerns regarding the digital ethics. Being knowledgeable may help them secure their information and be safe from different schemes or crimes. By conducting more orientations or seminars for the key players: learners and parents will be highly educated

and motivated to practice different digital ethics. It that way, the said individuals may also be able to educate others in spreading awareness of digital ethics and privacy.

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