

THREAT OR STRENGTH: THE EDUCATION OF DIGITAL NATIVES IN THE DIGITAL AGE

by:

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The advent of technology paved way for so many opportunities in the sector of education. It sparked enlightenment both in positive and negative aspects of human lives. As a great courier of change, it triggers societal trends leading to a vividly uncertain future for the following generations. But what is it that technology continuously bring to the table, causing the entire game to change its system? And, what is it that makes it challenging for humans to cope with the demand it requires?

The use of technology is inseparable to the education of the present time. In every corner of schools, it is common to behold students with mobile phones: chatting with classmates and families for updates, taking pictures to preserve memories, searching answers to given assignments, and playing online games amidst the wait for the class starting time. Technology is involved in almost everything that students do, may it be related to education or not. Hence, the frequency of their exposure reflects the impact of technology to their lives, in terms of beliefs, habits, and education.

Specifically, exposure to various social media platforms causes inevitable impacts to students such as becoming more aware about what is happening in society where they belong, giving them a chance to contribute to global change and take part in building a better world. As freedom of expression and information is continuously exercised, it gets lesser difficult for students to access information that are crucial for them to know. However, since the media is vast and uncontrollable, it is much open for misinformation and disinformation, leading to confusion which

makes it harder to identify what has to be considered important, and what has to be ignored and criticized. Simply scrolling in social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Tiktok, Thread, Capcut, and Reddit exemplify the root of exposure.

Positively, technology helps shape the learning of students in the modern times. Due to evolution of students learning journey, various technological advancements are proliferating specifically addressing the differences of learners in terms of acquiring information to stock as knowledge, and use for life-long purposes. According to ISDM (2024), technology serves as tools which have revolutionized the system of education promoting engagement, active participating and collaborative learning making it more personalized, open for communication, inclusive to learners of all kinds, and responsive to differing cultural beliefs. Thru technological utilization, innovation in terms of educational application and websites continuously develops offering features that enhances the way learners acquire knowledge with just their handy mobile phones.

Moreover, technology brings ease to the workload of teachers, making them focus more on the improvement of their teaching strategy.

However, the disadvantages revolve around the impact of Artificial Intelligence as the newest product of educational innovation. The start of the prevalence of AI can also be the death of deep and meaningful learning. As per Goteka (2024), artificial intelligence dehumanizes learning, specifically, with regards to too much reliance on AI tutors which diminishes the vital role of human teachers. It also has great negative impact on the emotional development of students which is a hugely crucial aspect of education.

Nevertheless, it is quite difficult to conclude if technology poses great threat or if it is a strength in the sector of education, but through controlled employment and proper utilization, its benefits can be maximized as it is true that digital natives can no longer live without these

technologies in the digital age. Hence, teachers are now being trained in order to provide technological integration efficiently, to develop students of the present society to be competent globally.

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