BEING A TEACHER IN THE WORLD OF SOCIAL MEDIA

by:

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At the advent of technological advancements, people celebrate a new period. Gadgets revolutionize from being the biggest to being the smallest and thinnest. Internet became the sanctuary of almost all people—transactions were made here, business operations and meetings can be held even if members are far from each other, and people can do tasks by just hitting the keyboard. Nothing seemed impossible.

But with these times also come one of the most controversial matters our society now faces: fake news. People call those stories who are either factually wrong or full of sweeping statements as fake news, but United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization properly called it as disinformation.

For some, it is an issue of technology, but for me, it is also an issue about educating the people. It says a lot about how educated our people regarding the contents of the internet. We call it media literacy. It is the ability of a person to critically read and understand the conventions of social media. Before it was just a subject for a specific group of students, but now, it should be a topic every person should learn.

As a teacher, we must learn how to be media literate people and how to transform our students into becoming one. There are a lot of seminars and training we can attend to, a lot of learning materials and modules in the internet, and a lot of people we could talk to and learn from this matter. But the most important skill a person should have if we really want to fight against this contagious technological cancer is having critical thinking skills.

Inside the classroom, we can give students lessons and/or activities which will challenge them to think critically like debates, small forums about controversial topics, fact finding and fact
checking, and teaching them a little about looking for logically wrong statements and arguments in a story.

However, I believe, we can also actually give them examples of news to examine with. By that, we can see how their though processes work, what are wrong and correct things they did, and what intervention we can do to solve those matters. We can do these activities especially if we are teaching English or Social Science. But no matter what subject we teach, we can integrate lessons or activities that hold critical thinking in its discussions or applications.

If we want to produce academically intelligent students that also entails them being smart outside and inside the internet. In a world that causes confusion and disorder brought about by this disinformation, it is time we step up our fights as teachers of this society.

References:

https://en.unesco.org/fightfakenews