FROM NOTEBOOKS TO NOTEPADS: THE IMPACT OF SMARTPHONES IN THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS

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Now that the pandemic has reshaped our daily routine from the life we have, prior to this disease, drastic changes has taken place, continue to change and attribute to the so-called New Normal. This day and age where the Education is geared towards delivering lessons on different modality it has come to attention of many parents and students the usage of gadgets particularly smartphones where they can access immediately to the internet through wireless fidelity (wifi).

Smartphones and tablets are common and popular among children and are widely used by students which provides varied usage over time. It has been a useful tool for communication and to present, it has been utilized by student as a tool for learning. It is evident that early adolescents clamor to own a smartphone not only for the erudition it brings but for entertainment as well. Nowadays that we are switching from traditional notebook and pen to a more comfortable way of taking notes using notepads and google docs. How does smartphones impact the learning of our students?

Research studies have revealed that using smartphones has significant impact on the learning of students as well as their learning behaviors and performance. Mobile phones empower students to become more involved in the lesson encouraging learner-centric engagement in a classroom environment. This clearly shows the dynamic support the smartphone has provided for learning practices for students. Furthermore, with the use of gadgets like smartphones and tablets students can augment their academic level performance by viewing online educational contents or resources. In addition, the use of manipulative phones has influenced and changed educational
practices through collecting information, noting orders and instructions from teachers, doing homework, working with fellow students, among many others.

In order to maximize the positive effect on the use smartphones, proper guidance should be given by parents and guardians. Additionally, studies suggest that when cell phone use is controlled and adequately utilized, students' academic performance will certainly be enhanced. It is imperative that using modern phones for academic purposes instead of non-academic purposes like Facebook messaging, using Whatsapp and sending BBM has greater impact on academic performance of learners.

Responsible use and adequate supervision of smartphones for early adolescents must be imparted among them to minimize addiction. Easy access to internet and uncontrollable flow of unfiltered information can expose our children to different less meaningful data that can destruct them from learning. Time of exposure to the use of gadget should also be observed by parents to minimize addiction on the use of gadgets. Additionally, parents or guardians must be fully aware of websites being visited by children.

Use of gadgets particularly smartphones might be of an easiest way to access information especially now that face to face learning is prohibited. Thus, it is significant that early adolescent learners must take full responsibility in using them for educational purposes.

References: