IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN EDUCATION

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Facebook, Instagram, twitter, you tube, google; are you familiar with these terms? Of course, who is not aware with these social media. Social media is term that is used quite often of these days specially the millennials. Nowadays social media became an integral part of people’s life. Greater percentage of people use social media in different aspects of their lives, ways and reasons. It creates interactions and communications among its users. Everyone is connected and can relate on it. It has changed people’s lifestyle and behaviors.

The world of education has completely changed ever since the internet and technology came up. In education, the influence of social media is cannot be denied. Social media is essential for youth in the field of education to learn new trends in education, promoting religious, political information, gathering and sharing links, better living style, growth and development of society (Merriam Encyclopedia, 2011).

Both teachers and students use social media in same way or another. Because of social media, teachers can now easily band together and connect with the students. Also, social media can be a powerful teaching tool if teacher will be an open-minded in utilization of it. It delivers numerous opportunities to improve and discover other learning methods. For instance, if you want to develop the writing skills of your students,
teacher can encourage them to start a blog. Students may respond positively when their teacher is adopting social media as part of teaching-learning process. New way of learning is also offer by social media. On the other hand, accessibility to the online resources is easy for the students. They have greater freedom from it. These online resources available on social media help the students learn. Social networking can be used by them in discussing educational topics and assignments. Academic research is also provided by social network. Students can also benefit from online tutorials.

Information awareness increased, specifically in the educational institutions. It is very evident that information spreads faster online than other form of media. Learners are informed about breaking news through social media like Facebook. Educational institutions can reach all the students and teachers that are connected to the social network. Announcements is easy through posting, like suspension of classes and other matter related to educational system.

However, with all the positive aspects of social media stated, still social media has been criticized by some Netizens. Negative aspects of it are also emphasized. Cyber-bullying is the popular one. A 2012 study found out that at least 800 000 minors have been harassed on Facebook.

Misinformation or unreliable data are present in social media. Others are victim of fake news. Sometimes the use of it is a waste of time, if cannot controlled properly. Students may be unfocused in classes if they overspend their selves on it and overused social media. In teacher’s part building a good relationship among their pupils will be hard if they will just rely on social media as means of communication. Personal touch is always essentials. Some teachers cannot adopt easily to social media as means of new teaching method.
Really social media has great impact in people’s life and in education both positive and negative. It is not bad nor so good. It is always depending on how we use it and the purpose of engaging ourselves in social media. We educators should have embraced social media in our endeavors as well as our students but always sets limitations on it.

References:
1. Merriam Encyclopedia, 2011