INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO EDUCATION

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Both social media and technology have become a crucial part of our lives today. A 14-year old individual can now have their account on any of the widespread social media networks such as Facebook, SnapChat, Instagram, while WhatsApp has raised the least age to 16 (Willbold, 2019).

On the other hand, the big question is: how is social online networking becomes useful to learners? In what ways the social media in education can assist the learners, and how it can help to fill in the gaps in learning if used in a harmless and proper way?

On a research findings conducted by Faizi et al. (2013), claimed that these web-based applications can develop communication among learners and between teachers and learners, stimulate learners’ engagement, learners feel at ease to express their creativeness, and easily say their view on a social network website. Moreover, social media applications foster cooperation as students work together to complete common goal.

Likewise, it was seconded by the research findings of Siddiqui and Singh (2016), where they highlighted that social media has improved the quality and degree of collaboration for learners. Among the positive effects are the following:

1. social media provides a way to the learners to successfully reach each other in regards to class undertakings, group tasks or for help on homework;

2. a lot of of the learners who are not interested steadily in class might feel that they are expressive of their point of view on social media easily; and
3. Teachers may post on social media about class happenings, school occasions, homework and assignments which are very useful to them.

Meanwhile, negative effects of social media towards education have been also seen. These are:

1. The kind of disturbance to the learners present in the class as teachers were not able to tell apart who is paying attention in the classroom;

2. The confidentiality concerns like posting personal data on online sites has become one of the biggest cessation of social media in education;

3. May lead the learners to the wrong side through the numerous unsuitable information displayed; and

4. Learners lose their capacity to engage themselves for face to face communication because of social media.

Given the educational benefits mentioned above, scholars recommend that these online social media tools should be used in learning settings.

References:

