RELATIONSHIP STATUS: ENGAGED WITH SOCIAL MEDIA

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The rise of technology has been one of the major breakthroughs of the world; aside from its effects to the generation where it originated, the outcome of such development can still be felt in today’s life. From the old bulky computers, it has turned to be slim and portable this time. Typewriters evolved into printers while fax machines evolved into e-mails. Not just hardware, but as well as software has also modified. There comes the development of Word Star into Microsoft Office and internet invasion until social media has become one of the daily routines of each individuals. Various aftermaths and aspects can be seen from the development of Social Media, its connectedness to human being is vivid and irreplaceable.

It is clear that we are all subjected of any change, we are all capable of being affected by the environment we are belong to; life events, various circumstances, influences or for instance, this social media stuff. This changes may include the way we see things, our own decisions, beliefs, or worse, our behavior. We may embrace such changes if we don’t hold any responsibilities on our hands, but what if we’re students? Of course we are oblige to study, is it still okay to accept the changes that were brought by social media? How massive the role of social media to completely modify us as well as our decisions and behavior?

According to a site named “Technician”, as of 2015 the world’s largest social networking company, Facebook, has 1.49 billion active users, and the number of users is increasing every year. One of the most interesting things to look at is the increasing number of student users on such social networking sites. As per the survey conducted by Pew Research Center, 72 percent of high school and 78 percent of college students
spend time on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. These numbers indicate how much the student community is involved in this virtual world of social networking.

One of the effects of these sites is identity crisis. In having an account in such sites, students are exposed to thousands of concepts and ideas, they are highly influenced by their friends’ posts and suggestions in virtual world. Most of their actions are relied upon the actions of others even if it is immoral. They usually follow the trend in virtual world before thinking if it will affect their image.

Students’ nature is directly about studying, gaining knowledge, doing intellectual practices and improving self-values but due to the rise of social media, these stuff are being left behind. They are more engaged in using social media than allotting time for their school assignments, they often spend time on Facebook until midnight and have a hard time to wake up next morning. Some choose to skip classes but some continues yet because of insufficient hours of sleep, they still struggle to focus on study.

Technician said, getting too involved in social media can lead to an addiction that inculcates bad habits. Students prefer to chat with friends for hours, and this leads to a waste of time that could have been used for studying, playing or learning new skills. It is often said that a long-term friendship or relationship is developed when people meet each other, spend time and share their experiences. But this virtual way of communicating with each other does not lead to a natural, friendly experience and hence cannot produce a healthy relationship with those friends. Also, these relationships tend to terminate easily due to a lack of personal contact.

The evolution of technology is indeed a great help for the communication of the whole world. It connects people who seemingly impossible to be connected, it connects families and loved ones and it connects us to another dimension that tickles our minds. But hopefully, let’s not let it disconnects us from the main point of our being, from the main point of our nature as a student or as a daughter, mother and human.