SOCIAL MEDIA: A BANE OR BOON FOR STUDENTS?

by:
Lourdes M. Octavio
Master Teacher I, Pablo Roman National High School

The use of technology has become a primary classroom tool. Teachers nowadays have embraced the significance of digital method of education with the use of tablets, the internet, and social media. Having these tools as a powerful platform to extend our students’ learning, there are also certain issues that arise that we have to be aware of in terms of their use, and misuse and its consequences.

According to the PNP Anti-Cybercrime Group (ACG), there had been an increase of cyber crime incidents for the past 4 years (2013) and digits jumped to an increase of 270% in a span of one year (2014).

Republic Act No. 10175 otherwise knows as Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 primarily focuses on “defining cybercrime offenses, the enforcement and implementation of the provisions therein, and the international cooperation for transitional offenses.”

And because of the rise of cybercrime offenses, a bill against Internet-related crime has been filed at the House of Representatives. It is called the “Anti Cyber-bullying Act of 2015” defining and penalizing “cyber-bullying” of the act of posting rude, offensive or insulting messages against the victim on the Internet or with the use of any form of electronic media or technology to ruin one’s reputation or cause reasonable fear, physical or emotional harm.

According to Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya who authored the said bill, “Cyber-bullying is one such problem that the advancement in technology and social media has generated. It can potentially affect not only school-aged children but also any individual who has access to a mobile phone or the internet.”

While the use of technology, particularly the Internet, provides innovative teaching and educational possibilities, it is our responsibility as educators to create and awareness among our students the consequences lead by the improper use social media.
We must help our students take reasonable precautions to ensure that any of their online activities will not harm others and eventually, themselves.

Reference: