SOCIAL MEDIA AND ITS ROLE IN THE CLASSROOM

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With the advancement and expansive use of technology nowadays, it is no wonder that even our classrooms are reaping its benefits. Social media is another innovation provided to us by the emergence of technology. Moreover, it is a platform that enables us to communicate in the modern world, expand our horizons, and express freely our thoughts- across oceans and continents, all in the power of our fingertips.

Social media is a bridge that allows our educators, students and even parents to communicate with one another- no need for the burden of extra money in transportation and calling through telephone lines. Plus the fact that the safety of our children is at peace, not leaving home whilst communicating to the world. Hence, the specific affirmative effects of social media:

1.) Group chats!

Missed the home work? Class suspension announcement? Group chat polls of who’s going or not to a specific event? Polls of who is in favor or against of a specific topic? All these were brightly services rendered efficiently thanks to a GC. Efficient decisions are also a plus factor brought by group chats. Instead of calling each other one by one, instead of waiting for the next day to come up with a decisions or a solution to a problem, people nowadays can do it in a span of minutes. Efficient way to communicate: check. Efficient way to decide: check!
Moreover, as backed up by TeleMessage (2015), that secures enterprise messaging, mobile communications archiving and high-volume text messaging services since 1999, claims that “Group chat lets you instantly send messages, pictures and videos to multiple people at once while seamlessly keeping a conversation going.” Not only group chats provide efficient means of communication towards a number of people, it is also a good archive tool. Just scroll back and you’ll have your needed information in a matter of minutes.

2.) Easier file sharing

Gone are the days you need to seek articles and information in big piles of books, the days were you photocopy thick versions of book formats just to study. Such incidents are still happening nowadays. However, in some areas, social media has built a bridge for file sharing among educators and students themselves. A positive benefit also is tackled by the educational website, Academia (2018). They have affirmed that through the use of social media, particularly Google platforms (e.g., Google Forms, Google Calendar, Google Drive etc.), educators can create online examination sheets and share them throughout the class, also to notify students with up to date announcement and examination schedules through online calendars.

3.) #Hashtags

In case the news was not able to reach you, in 2014, the Merriam Webster Dictionary has officially included the word “hashtag”, according to the said dictionary, hashtag is a “a word or phrase preceded by the symbol # that classifies or categorizes the accompanying text (such as a tweet).” And since then the advent use of hashtags can be profoundly seen in the social media. Our educators are using it too, there are
instances (that I am sure you are aware of) which a student posts hi/her homework in social media and uses hashtags for it to be seen immediately by their teacher. Hashtags provide an organized way for teachers to sort educational posts that they have primarily tasked to their students.

That being said, a research survey by Seamean et. al. (2013) entitled “Social Media for Teaching and Learning” found out that 59% of the faculty respondents agree that the interactive nature of online and mobile technologies helps create better learning environments to their students. Moreover, from the same study, 78.9% of the faculty respondents agree that the impact of today’s technology on faculty-student communication is increasing. The study also concluded that in only a span of one year, from 2012 to 2013, the use of social media in teaching has increased by 21.3%. What do these significant numbers correspond? It clearly shows the positive impacts and inclusion of social media as a medium for learning. As supported by the studies aforementioned, social media indeed plays a great role in providing innovation in our classrooms and creating a much diverse one suited for the constantly changing world we are part of.
References:


