SOCIAL MEDIA: STUDENTS AND THE NEW GENERATION OF COMMUNICATION

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As with most things, there is always the good and the bad. Social media can both be a blessing and a curse. We cannot actually get rid of it, so how do we take advantage of the platform?

Gone are the days of snail mail, meeting new people by travelling, and using photo albums to show family photos. During this age almost everything is online, even friendship. Students can connect with each other even after school hours without physically meeting.

When students communicate, they are able to have discussions about lessons, have access to information, and gain a wide pool of knowledge among each other. Hence, having a group in a social media platform can help the classroom enrich the learning experience.

However, since social media is hardly regulated, it can also distract students and lead to procrastination, misinform the generation with fake news or viral videos, and worse, facilitate cyberbullying.

With these in view, teachers and parents need to guide the learners. They themselves must be able to become good role models in using the social media. Fake news must be prevented by being aware of what is happening around the globe. As the saying goes, think before you click. Be mindful of what you share. Only trusted sites must be visited. Furthermore, all of us may block the pages and accounts on Facebook if these are spreading violence, fake news and other forms of harassment.
All in all, as students are connecting outside of the realms of the physical world, so too should teachers be able to reach out to their students in the internet. Educators should take advantage of social media as a learning platform while providing guidance and being aware of symptoms of the negative effects of it on the new generation.

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