THE WORLD HAS TO CHOOSE
(DISCOVERING THE PRESENT STATE OF THE IGEN)

by

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With the current state of the world, technological advances seemed to overthrow other conceptual innovations around the globe. This phenomena brings about alterations in the norms of humanity, which happens to be unstable and ever changing. One of the greatest issues that had become a by-product is its impact on the younger subgroup of our society today, the iGeneration.

By definition, these subgroup does not bare any difference when compared to the Generation Z, or what we call as the post-millennial.

According to wikipedia.org, iGeneration is the demographic cohort after the millennial, which researchers typically use starting birth years that range from the mid-1990s to the late 2010s. A significant aspect of this generation is the widespread usage of the internet from young age; they are typically thought as being comfortable with technology and interaction on social media websites a significant portion of their socializing.

However, to give a more precise and evaluated meaning, Whittaker and Harrison defines iGeneration as: a subgroup of younger people who already exists where members actively engaged with technology in its development, progression, and its use in the workplace so that technology can evolve within the means of the generation.

Through many scholastic articles and studies found in the Internet, few of many commonalities may be derived from their conclusions. iGeneration have altered methods, attitudes and values among its members. Usage of Internet through World Wide Web is one of the many factors for this modifications. Social media networking became a means of isolated socialization-allowing the members to access their friends, colleagues, and family’s social lives from the comfort of their computers or mobile devices. Another great advert to this phenomena is the progression of various educational and professional
advancement in various fields. Because of technological advances there was an emergence of another deceitful phenomena called information explosion. This brings about many changes from the way we harness knowledge and use these to advocate innovations from various industries. Such changes are online shopping, online businesses, online publishing and online streaming, online channels, so on. Nevertheless, iGeneration are very communicative, at least electronically. To prove how sociable they are online, there are more than sixty social media networking sites available in the Internet as of 2017 demographic survey (Chaffey, 2017) among these are the five most popular sites according to the number of active users, Facebook, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, QQ and WeChat.

It was the entrance of the school year 2012-2013 when the K-12 Basic Education Program (curriculum) in the Philippines proceeded and the incorporation of media is highly suggested amongst the members of the institution which majority of educators are still half-hearted about embracing entirely.

On a seminar entitled Revitalizing Teaching for the Next Generation Learning, educators are gaged to describe the characteristics of iGeneration learners. A list was made as a result of this pole where some of the qualities they seem to have are as follow: interactive, assertive, cooperative, manipulative, and demonstrative. Educators also finds the students today as adventurous, experimental, self-sufficient, visual and mostly technologically inclined. With these being said, learners of the iGeneration are called post-digital natives where learning are mostly gained through usage of various digital devices like desktop computers, laptops, mobile phones, smart phones, tablets, recorders, projectors, smart TVs, so on. Learning became an ultimately different experience through the incorporation of these media in the classroom instruction.

iGeneration college students prefer intrapersonal and independent learning over group work, yet like to do their solo work alongside others in a social manner when studying. They like their learning to be practical and hands-on and want their instructors to help them engage with and apply the content rather than simply share what they could
otherwise find on their own online. This generation is revolutionizing the educational system in many aspects.

From an article written by Jeremy Finch, iGeneration members are too poorly labeled as “screen addicts”. Further, to counterfeit this stereotype, he states that iGen do not have attention problem, but they have what he calls as an eight second filter since they have grown in a fully digitalized world, they have adapted to quickly sort enormous amount of information. This filter tries to examine or assess the content of any stimuli that is in front of them either through surfing the internet or through personal encounters.

Subsequently, because of the concerns regarding the alterations made by the emergence of iGeneration in the society, educational paladins and institutions have had troubles adjusting to their perspectives. Today, the academe is also facing a great challenge in addressing the changing needs of the youth in terms of teaching and learning. Various pedagogical approaches and methods were proposed and then advertised to the main stream of educational administrators, teachers and others which are part of the school stakeholders. With this regard, teachers are expected to incorporate the usage of technology in their instruction, more so in language teaching. Since students have the ability to filter information in such a short period of time, a challenge was posted on the shoulders of the teachers to keep the instruction visually and mentally stimulating. And as technology continues to grow and become more accessible and affordable to the market, educational developers seek to address these changes with various activities to compromise with the ever changing world with its drastic innovations and as well with the preservation of humanity.
References:


Whittaker, Zack. Defining the 'iGeneration': Not just a geeky bunch of kids. ZDnet
