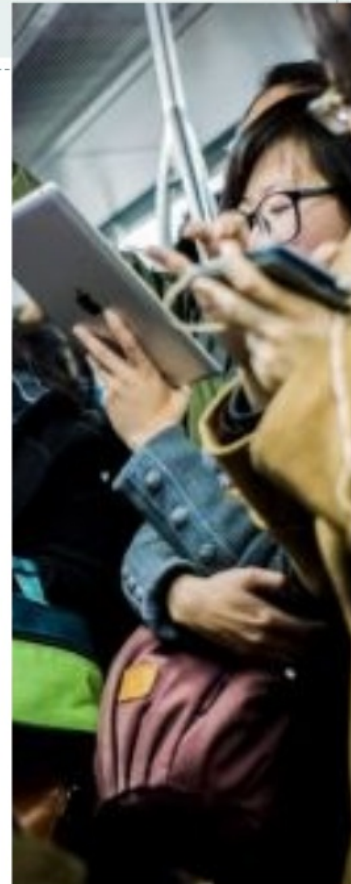# 4.1

by Student User

Digital Citizenship

THE IMPACT OF THE INTERNET

A digital citizen is a person utilizing information technology (IT) in order to engage in society politics, and government. Karen Moss Berger and others define digital citizens as **"those who use the Internet regularly and effectively"**.

The Internet has given us a lot of things and it keeps on getting irresistible. The younger, the older and the in between, everyone feels like their life is incomplete without having access to the digital world. Nowadays, people live on the internet because it's impossible not to have any connection to it. The internet helps us to connect in multiple ways, it gives us information about the unknown, it is a world of its own and it's just a click away. It has made our daily lives so much more easier than in the past. People get more opportunities everyday to showcase their talents and passions just because of the Internet. You don't have to wait for an opportunity to knock at your door to do what you love, just upload a video or a photo of your talent on your socials and bam, you are doing what you love for the rest of your life.

Digital Citizenship has become so common in this day and age that there are very less people left in this world that do not visit the digital world once in their day, no matter how busy their life is. It's an addiction but it is a positive one for the majority of it. Digital Citizenship has made the human race more knowledgeable and creative, it has promoted growth like never before. With information, both old and new, just a Search away, our society has become aware of the ongoing issues of the world and are actively volunteering to solve them, one step at a time. It is with digital citizenship that the everyday problems of the world spread like wildfire and get instant attention, pushing the forces responsible for the issues to work towards the stop of them. Digital citizenship is also a benefit to the younger generation, though the early exposure to the digital world without knowledge of its hazards is a big disadvantage for the young minds but through proper check of activity on the Internet, children can learn things that are a luxury in education. You don't have to pay stacks of money to get your children to learn new languages or to enhance their skills, it's all for free on the Internet, that is, if you have a Wi-Fi connection. Digital citizenship also brings light to issues that were considered a taboo in the past years, the people accessing the Internet everyday share what they go through garnering a sea of people going through the same and this helps in bringing light to the topic. Though some of the people on the Internet contribute to the dark side of it but the other majority of people try to stop it to the best of their facilities. Over a period of time, the digital space has progressed a lot to be what it is today, webpages have a number of functions to ensure a safe and comfortable experience. Social media ha also given us a number of beautiful personalities and to access their guidance, there is no other way but to browse the Internet. This plays a big role in the promotion of digital citizenship. Celebrities are not the people we see on the television or on the radio or on the big screen but they are also the people that have millions of followers on digital platforms by just sharing their daily life or their passions.

Digital Citizenship plays a role in the growth of the society and it should be promoted but for and with the right reasons only. All the members of the digital space should have a limit to their usage of the Internet and their activity should be kept in check for a healthy society.

PERSONAL DATA: HOW SECURE IS IT ON THE INTERNET?

We mindlessly put our private and personal information on the Internet without thinking twice about the repercussions. That does not change the fact that there are repercussions and they are piling up enough to be considered as a problem everyone related to the Internet is desperately trying to find the solution for. From your name, to your address, to your pictures, everything that goes on the Internet stays there. With the increasing pressure by people to solve these issues, the authorities are working day and night to come up with new and stable solutions but the people responsible for these issues are working hard to disrupt the safety of the digital space.

Personal data is the main cause of the problem because of its use for other major crimes. It can be used to do a number of things that can be harmful to the person it belongs to and the society as a whole. The open access to someone's personal data is and can be dangerous at many levels. With the increasing knowledge about technology and how it works, it is becoming easier to know about hacking and this adds on to the list of things that makes data mongering and other societal problems easier. Hackers can retrieve your personal details and pictures even if your account is private. This data is often signed off to websites you visit if you don't read the terms and conditions of using that webpage. The data can be used for various purposes that might not settle well with the person the data belongs to.

Data mongering can help in heinous crimes like kidnappings, money laundering, robbery, terrorism, etc. This happens because the personal data helps criminals to conceal their identity, it can also be used to find someone that they have been targeting.

Even though all the countries are working actively to solve this problem as it has become the core of many crimes but some of the policies have worked more negatively that positively for the people on the Internet while the people responsible for these crimes roam the Internet free and untouched.

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