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Evolution of Entertainment: Then and Now

Why is it harmful or beneficial to society?

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The Evolution of Entertainment: Then and Now

Entertainment has been a popular medium for a long, long time. It was all okay until social media, iPhones and streaming services became a part of the norm in society. YouTube, FaceBook and all these streaming services came out and it took a turn for the worse between people and real life. Entertainment has become more harmful in today's society because it causes bigger problems in people's mental health, it gives people wrong ideas and misinformation, and it has become more popular with children and more used in their childhood.

People back in the 1900s had pretty bad mental health, but now people with depression have increased, and it’s because of the entertainment and social media systems. In 2020, depression rates increased with people staying home during the pandemic, and not being able to see other people or even family. People started going on their phones and watching videos and movies day and night because there was nothing else to do. It started causing sleep problems with people because they started getting addicted to watching TV shows, movies and videos that were addictive and couldn’t stop for hours upon hours. Some people couldn’t do anything because they were so tired from having their eyes on a screen 24/7. People's mental health also started declining because of cyberbullying on the internet. In 2020-to now people started making more and more videos to post on the internet, and, when you post on the internet, hate is a big thing. Some people started getting cyberbullied so badly to the point of suicidal thoughts, which is a big reason why entertainment is very harmful to society. The worst part is that no one can do anything about it. Sure, you can report bad comments and texts, but that’s not going to take back what they said or unaffected the person who heard the comment. In the 1800s, there was no social media where you could bully someone online. We can understand the past of this by asking elderly people who have been through this kind of thing with mental health and asking how it started occurring because we already know it’s not going to be because of screens and entertainment. They would just say it out loud, and if it got too bad they could get police to help. Now, if someone is getting bullied online, the person can get new accounts or numbers and can continue harassing. That is a major part of why entertainment is horrible for today's society.

There are numerous things on the internet that people believe are not true. Now, with AI, things are becoming even more fake and can get people into more trouble. Artificial intelligence is getting so real in copying people's faces that it can make fake videos of people doing things that are not real. There are so many movie trailers, radio news, and videos about other people that aren’t even true. Yet people are so gullible that they will believe anything that is shown or said online because no one's first instinct is to think it’s fake. In the 1800’s, news was on a newspaper and was printed on hand presses. In the 1800s, people started putting more details in newspapers for more people to buy them to make more money, even though everything was true. If there was no newspaper, people would spread information from word of mouth. There are so many wrong ideas in social media and the internet that people believe. Just like misinformation, people think something, believe it, and share it on the internet and other people also start believing it and sharing it with more people. That’s another reason why entertainment is harmful today.

The biggest reason that is the most important is that it’s more popular in kids' childhood. Kids before 1927 didn’t have tv, because that’s when the tv came out. Kids used to play with toys and colouring books, but kids now only want to play video games, watch TV and movies and play on iPads and phones. Since kids aren’t going outside as much, they do not see much of real-life animals and plants. They are attached and addicted to technology and only use them. Change does not always mean progress, lots of kids have changed from the past by instead of playing with toys, reading books, and playing outside, they are playing games on phones and iPads, watching TV shows and movies all the time and it’s affecting their eyes and their brain functionality. Even though kids have changed, not for the better. The main cause you can’t see just by looking at someone, kids watching TV, etc., is that it’s affecting cortical excitability. Cortical excitability is the strength of reactivity and response of your brain and it usually declines because of age, substance abuse, sleep deprivation etc. Lately, it has been affecting more children because of phone and screen usage. It disturbs attention span and memory mostly with kids and it’s starting to affect them more. That is the main reason why it’s harmful to society now.

In conclusion, this is why entertainment causes problems in people’s lives and why media and entertainment shouldn’t be as popular as it is. As you can see from this evidence, entertainment is very harmful and people's mental health and brains are being affected in terrible ways.

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