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The Role of Information Literacy in Society

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2

The Role of Information Literacy in Society

Success in various aspects of life depends on how well one can effectively access, evaluate, and use information in a digital society. Not all social groups and communities share uniform capabilities in information literacy. A person's critical information assessment capability develops primarily through their socioeconomic status, education level, and technological access. People from upper-class backgrounds obtain better access to quality higher education and dependable internet sources. Still, those from disadvantaged regions experience obstacles to digital literacy because of restricted access to resources.

Some population segments have 'information privilege' because they have access to published academic journals and professional knowledge, while others do not have access to information. Information privilege in public health harms public health because people can form vaccine doubt and make medical decisions based on false information, leading to avoidable adverse events.

Achievement of comprehensive information literacy levels brings a number of advantages in all spheres. Educated residents can judge political candidates' programs and news media slants better than the rest, and weakened democracy suffers. For instance, people who access and use knowledge effectively create conditions for technological advancement and medical progress. General populations without information literacy at scale create public health emergencies, which create political and economic difficulties.

Although information literacy is a vital function, society does not recognize its value. Social media has continued to spread misinformation, and people need better education about critical thinking and digital literacy. To have a well-educated society, policymakers, educators, and individuals must work to build information literacy because this skill equips an electorate to be

strong and capable. Consequently, an informed future exists with improved social equality, resulting from integrating information literacy education with critical thinking development throughout all educational levels.

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