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**Assignment # 2**

**Does Social Media Improve People's Communication Skills?**

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Does Social Media Improve People's Communication Skills?

Essay

Communication skills are the talents that we use to exchange various types of information. Exchanging new ideas, thoughts, or even an update is considered a communication. Listening, speaking, watching, and empathizing are all communication abilities.

Social Media is described as the collection of online communication channels dedicated to community based input, interaction, content sharing and collaboration. Some of the commonly known communication websites are Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest. With the help of this websites people can share memories, reconnect with friends, plan events, and communicate almost instantaneously. The social media has positive as well as negative impacts on communication skills.

When we think about older communication technologies such as telegraph and telephone, we realize that new communication technologies are embraced because they are more efficient and convenient than older communication technologies. This is why social media has become such an important part of our lives because it makes communication even more efficient and convenient than older communication styles such as telephone conversation. When we talk on phone, we can usually talk with only one person. But on social media we can talk with hundreds and even thousands of friends at a time. We do so in several ways such as posting a status or even sending direct message as social media such as Facebook and Twitter etc. allow us to do so. In addition, the nature of the communication is more permanent as compared to telephone communication. It is also time saving because an important announcement before internet would often require making individual telephone calls or sending postal mails which were also inconvenient and slower processes in addition to being time-consuming.

Social media doesn’t only allow individuals to communicate with those they already know but also easily find people who may have similar interests or opinions. There are different communities on Facebook on a wide range of topics some of whom focus on information sharing and discussions while others may focus on particular hobbies and interests. Before social media, it would have been quite a challenging task to find people with similar interests except among friends and acquaintances but now it take few clicks to find people with similar interests from all over the world.

On the other hand, social networks have become the central facilitator for daily communication with peers and family. It is affecting our relationships and decreases the quality of inter-personal communication. Another impairment of communication skills caused by the extensive use of social media platform is the impoverishment of language. Using messengers’ people often use shortened versions of words in order to type and deliver their messages as quickly as possible. Shortened versions like “k”, “ttyl”, “ur”, “der”, “gr8”,”cu”,”tc” and so on completely ruins the grammar and syntax. It also develops the use of slang terms and sometimes people tend to forget that they are neglecting the beauty of language when they are online busy with the social media.

Social media and online communication is believed to be having adverse effect on social skills and communication among adolescents. Long ago, the time when social media did not exist and social communication and interaction were the only way of communication. In the era of technology, social media interactions now dominates both online and offline conversations. In a society where interacting and over-sharing is the norm, you are probably more likely to speak to friends and family through electronic devices than face-to-face. Often at events or parties, guests are attached to their smart phones twitting or texting, but no one is truly engaging or interacting with the people around them. As more generations are born into the social age, social media will continue to be the favored communication form among young people. However, this shift may begin to affect their ability to properly communicate in person with peers.

Whether or not people want to accept it, social media has several negative impacts on their daily lives. We cannot deny the fact that social platform is very helpful providing news, gossips, and to keep in touch with friends and family, but we cannot afford it to become the focal point of our lives. The access that people have on the internet and social media specifically has become too easy. It has made the language lazy and thus resulting people uninterested in meeting others in person, which eliminates any chance of deep and meaningful conversation. People have started losing their ability to communicate efficiently, which is a testament, to what kind of total control social media has over their lives. Overall, social media can be beneficial if used wisely and in the proper proportion. So, it is easy to conclude that the negative impact of social media far outweigh any benefits that they may provide to society at this juncture.