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The Discussion on Social Media

“Some issues cause controversy, but social media does more good than harm in retrospect,” according to AJ Agrawal from Forbes (Agwal, AJ). There is a large conversation about social media causing good or bad these days. Social media is said to be bad due to the fact that it causes stress, depression, insomnia, and because it has had a reputation for hurting relationships (Brown, Jessica). While these issues sound bad, the good in social media may be more effective than the bad, for example, social media connects people, gives everyone an equal voice, and can be a positive role in educating students (Rendler-Kaplan, Lucy). Social media can be used for good and bad, but the actions of good outweigh the bad because of the contributing factors of how social media helps people stay connected, helps with businesses and marketing, and even helps with student’s education.

Social media is commonly known for connecting people that are not close in distance or even aiding in the meeting of new people. It all starts with the messaging systems in Facebook and many other social media networks. (Guest). There are now over 1.39 billion users worldwide using Facebook messenger to keep in touch with loved ones (Guest). You can meet new people everyday, from all over the world thanks to social media (“Social Networking ProCon.org”). Out of all the teens using social media, 57% of them are using their social media accounts to meet new people whether in their town or in another country (“Social Networking ProCon.org”). “Three billion people, around 40% of the world’s population, use online social media – and we’re spending an average of two hours every day sharing, liking, tweeting and updating on these platforms, according to some reports. That breaks down to around half a million tweets and snapchat photos shared every minute.”This quote is from Jessica Brown of BBC News (Brown, Jessica).

Social media is helpful in the way that the use of it will benefit the business world and workforce. Social media is a crucial part to the hiring employees process (“Social Networking ProCon.org”). 96% of employers use social media sites such as Instagram, twitter, and Facebook, and 40% of people claim to have used Facebook to find hiring business to apply to (“Social Networking ProCon.org”). An article from Keren Smith states the following: “The number of social media-using adults has gone from 7% in 2005 to 69%, just ten years later,” (Smith, Keren). Businesses use social media for advertising and getting their products into the view of people, and over two million businesses are using Facebook for this reason alone (Smith, Keran). Without this, many businesses would not be as successful as they are today. Whether the business is locally known or worldwide, they both need to get their message out into circulation by the uses of social media. The owner of the business can even target advertising based on their range of customers, and they can even see how many people are searching for them on social media sites to help build up a good reputation on sites with lower searches (Smith, Keran).

The final reason that social media is a good influence to the world that is said in this paper is the good social media does for students. You can stay connected to professors and institutes through instructional or lecturing videos on YouTube or Facebook that your teacher posted to help you with your works (Dlamini, Khanyie) While it helps the student in educational ways, it also keeps the students social and engaged with other students therefore keeping kids in school and causing less dropouts (“Social Networking ProCon.org”). Social media plays a huge role in a student’s professional lives. It can help them snag internships and jobs. (“Social Networking ProCon.org”). 69% of students today have used social media to find good, reasonable internships to help them further their lives and carreers (“Social Networking ProCon.org”). These are great things social media can do, but if it is abused while studying, an experiment shows that the test scores will lower by 20% (“Social Networking ProCon.org”).

There are few downsides to make people think that social media is very bad to be on. Here are just a few examples. First, Social media is known to have fake news (Rendler-Kaplan, Lucy). People like to expand and exploit stories for their own well beings and gain, and they also will publish anything without any further research into it (Rendler-Kaplan, Lucy). Social media causes depression and anxiety by the comparison to yourself to others or by trying to hit a goal of followers or likes. The person on the site may not think he or she is good enough, and this may lead to being envious of others (Brown, Jessica). Social media may also be the start of an addiction. Addictions can start off with social media, and may escalade to whatever you do, you become addicted to (Brown, Jessica).

Social media is always going to be a controversy. Some people hate it, while other people think it is the greatest thing since sliced bread. These are some of the reasons how social media is good, and how social media is bad. The good actions outweigh the bad in the fight to figure out if social media is good or evil because of these three following reasons: the help for students, the help in the business world, and the help to keep people close together.

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