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The Discussion on Social Media

In the article “It’s Not all Bad: The Social Good of Social Media” AJ Agrawal says, “Some issues cause controversy, but social media does more good than harm in retrospect.” In the world today, there is a large conversation about social media causing good influences or bad influences in today’s time. Social media is assumed to be bad because it causes stress, depression, insomnia, and because it has had a reputation for hurting relationships (Brown). While these issues sound bad, social media may be causing more good than the bad (Rendler-Kaplan). For example, social media connects people, gives everyone an equal voice, and can influence with a positive role in educating students (Rendler-Kaplan). Social media can be used for good and bad with the actions of good outweighing the bad because of the following contributing factors: helps people stay connected (“Are Social Networking Sites Good for Our Society?”), helps with businesses and marketing (Dlamini), and even helps with students’ education (Smith).

Connecting people who are not close in distance or aiding in meeting new people is something social media is commonly used for. It all starts with the messaging systems in Facebook and many other social media networks (Wolf). There are now over 1.39 billion users worldwide using Facebook Messenger to keep in touch with loved ones (Wolf). Men and women can meet new people every day, from all over the world thanks to social media (“Are Social Networking Sites Good for Our Society?”). 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 (“Are Social Networking Sites Good for Our Society?”). Jessica Brown of BCC News once said, “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.”

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 employee hiring process (“Are Social Networking Sites Good for Our Society?”). Ninety-six percent of employers use social media sites such as Instagram, twitter, and Facebook, and 40% of people claim to have used Facebook to find a job (“Are Social Networking Sites Good for Our Society?”). 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”. 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). 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 use of social media. The owner of the business can even target advertising based on their range of customers, and they can also see how many people are searching for them on social media sites to help build up a better reputation on these sites where a lower number of people are searching for their business (Smith).

The final reason that social media is a good influence on the world 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 the student (Dlamini) While it helps the student in educational ways, it also keeps the students social and engaged with other students therefore keeping kids in school (“Are Social Networking Sites Good for Our Society?”). Social media plays a huge role in a student’s professional lives. It can help them snag internships and jobs (“Are Social Networking Sites Good for Our Society?”). Sixty- nine percent of students today have used social media to find appropriate, helpful internships to help them further their lives and careers (“Are Social Networking Sites Good for Our Society?”). Social media can solve these great issues, 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 to be on social media is very bad. Here are just a few examples. First, social media is known to have fake news (Rendler-Kaplan). Also, People like to expand and exploit stories for their own well beings and gain (Rendler-Kaplan). They also will publish anything without any further research into it (Rendler-Kaplan). 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). Social media may also be the start of an addiction. Addictions can start off with social media and may escalate to whatever happens, the person can become addicted to (Brown).

The good actions outweigh the bad in the fight to figure out if social media is good or evil because of three reasons including the help for students, the help in the business world, and the help to keep people close together. Social media is always going to be controversial. Some people hate it, while other people think it is the greatest thing to happen to the world. Helpfulness, connectivity, and mental health issues are some of the reasons social media is good and bad.

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