Online Communication – Advantages and Disadvantages

Dumitru Benone Siriu- Director
Scoala Gimnaziala Ion Rosca Cochirleanca

Abstract

Online communication skills have become more prominent and essential in the 21th century. However, there are pupils, students and teachers who can often lack the experience and don't reflect the expectations of their job or the people they meet. Thus it has become necessary to learn these in order to gain proficient communication skills which will benefit them later on in work and social life. On the other hand, this comes with its shares of disadvantages since online communication has generated various problems which seem to increase as technology advances.
Key Words*: Online Communication, Education, Academic Use of Internet,*

Introduction

Even for those who are knowledgeable with the use of the Internet, communication online can cause a lot of misunderstandings and in order to avoid such situations, pupils, students and teachers should be equipped with plans for a good online communication. The Internet is a strong area of connections between people and conversations which are all wrapped up by communication. One of the reasons for this it's because it provides opportunities to everyone around the world with plentiful ways.

With a wide access to the Internet and other technological devices it was inevitable that they'll become a part of many people's daily lives including pupils and students. They have started to access a wide variety of information which they use for their educational purposes as well as entertainment and social life.

Many children however focus their attention on the entertainment part of the Internet and usually stick to it in unhealthy ways which cause them to forget that the Web is not only limited to that but it can open a path to many opportunities that one can take or be inspired by.

The purpose of this work is to showcase and provide a visible tunnel with strategies showing the advantages and disadvantages of such communication especially because nowadays the Internet has become a storage place for Information and Communication which should be imparted to pupils and students through a safe space.

The work will be presented in two chapters which will primarily focus on advantages and disadvantages of online communication in educational purposes and various strategies on each.

Chapter I:Online Communication Advantages

Due to the many advantages that online communication has brought for everyone, it's not at all a surprise that this communication has become more popular than traditional communication. This has spread through professional means in jobs, schools and universities while others rely on it for more of a personal use. With such use this sort of communication has brought people together all around the world. Some of the advantages for online communication are the following:

- Cost effective and flexible.

Conferences services on the Internet are cost effective from a lot of perspectives as long as you have a mobile or internet connectivity. This can help students and teachers throughout the world in order to present their subjects and have various discussions. Due to its flexibility, communication can happen at any time.

- Speed and time.

Ever since people started to use the Internet their workspace has become more proficient with the fact that Information can arrive fast to the intended target through conversations, messages or e-mails. As a result money is saved and it's easier to contact a relative, business partner, colleague, etc. Face to face communication is also enabled nowadays with video conferences some of which are essential in communication companies

- Access to Information.

Any sort of Information can be accessed throughout the Internet through various news websites or videos which are more convenient than the traditional means of acquiring information. Online courses, instruction videos and tutorials have proved to be a very beneficial way for people to learn in the comfort of their own space.

- Improves Education and opens more opportunities.

Online communication has brought many cases of students involving themselves in collaborative learning through online groups which makes them more active in the learning process. Their contribution and discussions helps with self-development and improves decision making. Schools have access to pupils and students easier and often through the use of the Internet presentations can be done, which has expanded the reach of the curriculum on a regional as well as international level.

Chapter II:Online Communication Disadvantages

While there are many benefits to online communication, that doesn't come without its flaws. There are disadvantages in several sections of a business environment, educational and personal spaces.

- The detriment of Online Learning.

Pupils and students can develop easier in smaller groups. In a group at school pupils and students may become competitive and strive to achieve better results for themselves. This can be a good stimulation for them can prove quite beneficial. Through online learning or communication a proper interaction cannot be achieved.

- Online Learning lacks interaction with the Teacher.

Most spot on in universities, online learning often creates a single sided discussion which results more often than not into a monologue that pushes away the means to having a conversation/debate/discussion about the particular subject. Teacher-Pupil/Student relation has always been essential and cannot be easily overlooked. A teacher can become far more flexible from seeing the movement of the pupils and students, thus adjusting his teaching method in order to maintain their attention.

- Online communication can cause misinterpretation.

Video conferences and discussions despite their flexibility are not always available and cannot offer a full-fledged communication. On the other hand face to face communication comes into play in order to shape a good communication between people especially with non-verbal cues. One major misinterpretation that's often taken

through online communication is by typing with capital letters which is often seen as a way of shouting.

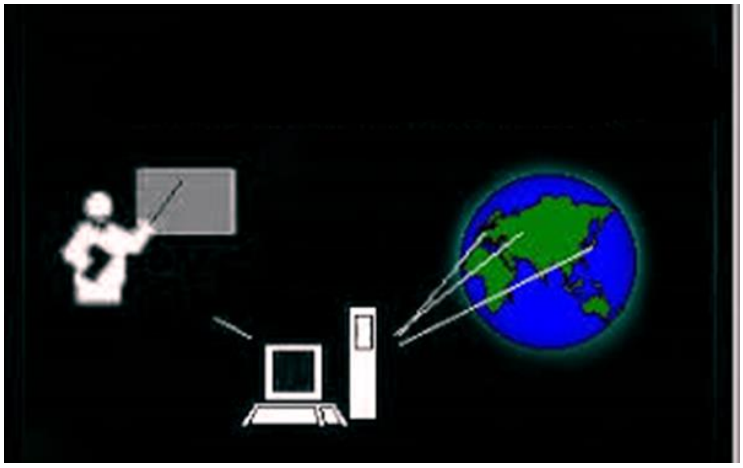
- Children growth without an educational environment

In a school, teachers carefully approach children with subjects and ways in which they can all participate thus developing their personality and growth. Online communication and information can often be dangerous due to the fact that it can bring isolation and in some cases cause growth problems especially if the information those children receive isn't controlled by responsible adults.

Conclusion

With its ups and downs, online communication has become an educational tool that keeps growing. Through its use it can provide opportunities in order to develop as a person and achieve one's goals in their life. Such studies however, should be conducted still as online communication keeps developing and advancing and it's a powerful tool. Online communication and learning can become a sword in which case Education has to become its sheath.

Education should be Global, not Local



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