

Cyberspace: is it useful or not in the world of education?

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to enhance the usage of Instagram among educators and students. Currently, in the field of education, this application is primarily used as a joining material or a place to take pictures. The use of social media in the form of Instagram can aid in children's learning by increasing their activity and creativity. Additionally, the virtual world of Instagram makes it easy for learning material to be repeated anywhere and anytime. In this study, data was collected from Instagram users using a survey method that included interviews. The results showed that users complain of high data usage and difficulties in using the application as a learning platform. Therefore, it can be concluded that Instagram is primarily used by the general audience as a joining material and mood booster. This led the researchers to take the initiative to conduct further research on the potential use of Instagram in education.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Cyberspace has become an important part of everyday life, with the internet and digital technology increasingly permeating various aspects of human life. In education, the role of cyberspace has become a hot topic of discussion. On the one hand, many believe that cyberspace brings great benefits to education, expanding access to information, enabling global collaboration, and providing an unprecedented range of educational resources. However, on the other hand, there are concerns about its negative impacts, such as distraction, the spread of false information, and the privacy issues that often arise. Therefore, careful assessment is needed to understand the full implications of the role of cyberspace in education.

The importance of cyberspace in education lies in its ability to provide wider access to information and educational resources. Before the internet and digital technology, students and students had to rely on textbooks and other printed resources available in their libraries or educational institutions. However, with the advent of cyberspace, necessary information can be accessed with just a few taps on a keyboard or touch screen. Educational resources such as e-books, scientific journals, learning videos, and online platforms provide a variety of learning materials that can be used by students and educators around the world. This opens the door to more equitable access to education, overcoming geographic and economic barriers that are often obstacles for many individuals.

Apart from that, cyberspace also allows the creation of globally connected learning communities. Through discussion forums, online study groups, and social networks, students and educators can interact with peers from various parts of the world, exchange ideas, and broaden their horizons. This not only enhances the learning experience socially and culturally but also helps in developing critical collaborative and problem-solving skills in an increasingly connected global context. Thus, virtual worlds not only broaden students' horizons but also enrich their learning experiences in ways that are not possible in the traditional classroom. In addition, addiction to technology and attention disorders are also concerns that arise along with the greater penetration of cyberspace in everyday life. Students are often tempted to spend hours in front of a screen, sacrificing time they should spend studying, interacting with others in person, or participating in outdoor activities that are important for their holistic development. This emphasizes the importance of balanced time management and awareness of the wise use of technology in education. In facing these challenges, it is important for educators to develop appropriate strategies to effectively integrate virtual worlds into the curriculum and student learning experiences. This includes teaching digital literacy, promoting safe and ethical online behavior, and emphasizing the use of technology as an aid in supporting student-centered learning. Apart from that, educators must also continue to monitor and evaluate the impact of virtual world use on students' academic achievement and social-emotional development, as well as be responsive to changes and challenges that arise.

Thus, cyberspace has great potential to improve the quality of education by providing wider access to information, enabling global collaboration, and enriching students' learning experiences. However, to optimize its benefits, it is important for educators and policymakers to understand the associated risks and challenges, and develop appropriate strategies to effectively manage their impacts. With a thoughtful and integrated approach, cyberspace can be a powerful tool in shaping an inclusive, innovative, and sustainable educational future.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. The importance of education for everyone

Education, as both a right and obligation performed by everyone in an institution, plays a crucial role in acquiring the knowledge that can change one's life [1]. However, this process cannot be successful without the guidance of an educator, who holds an important role in the education process [2]. Therefore, this study uses a method that can increase the student's emancipation [3]. Educators not only provide material related to learning, but they also know the diverse cultures that exist in Indonesia [4]. However, education is very important for everyone because it develops and increases their potential [5]. The potential and skills are necessary since they will bring good feedback to people [6]. Educators also tend to discover students' skills through their potential [7]. Therefore, parents need to play an important role in their children's education [1]. Education is not effectively carried out online, specifically during the pandemic. Furthermore, a vaccinated resident is one of the requirements for schools to return to normal state [8]. Many parents became worried about vaccinating due to the belief that it will affect their children [9].

2.2. The need for social media in education

Social media is needed by people, including children, adolescents, and adults. This media can make it easier for the community to perform several functions using cell phones, computers, and others [10]. Social media is also used as an aid tool in the education process [11]. Recently, students are very dominant in using this media during the learning process [12]. Social media makes it easier for a student to complete assignments given by teachers at school [13]. Furthermore, educators can use this media to change learning methods that increase students' enthusiasm [14]. Social media enables them to present educational materials which can increase the emancipation of learners [15]. However, network disruption which can still be overcome properly is the obstacle faced when accessing social media [16]. Educators use this media to solve the problems they face in educational institutions [17]. Therefore, social media help them to quickly and practically produce as well as make decisions to overcome several problems [18]. This media can also make it easier for people to obtain both formal and non-formal information [19] from various sources such as the internet [20]. The circulating information can be input using media without being limited by time and space [21]. Additionally, it is easy to collect student data in schools through social media [22]. This causes this media to be needed for the realization of optimal learning.

2.3. Social media applications that can be used for education

An application is a technological tool that can improve people's skills in any aspect [23]. Furthermore, this tool can aid in the education process, keeping pace with the current era of development. [13]. The learning process 4.0 is inseparable from the tools of technologists that are carried out online. Therefore, educators and students are not covered by technological media such as computers, cell phones,

and others [24]. An application also serves as means that can help people easily receive knowledge [25]. However, users are not bored when using these technological tools since it contains media devices [26]. Several applications including Canvas, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, WhatsApp, Zoom, Google Meet, and others can be adopted for the educational process. An educator can use Canvas to design attractive objects to increase student enthusiasm [27]. Additionally, Instagram is one of the most useful applications since it makes people interested in entering the institution [28]. This application can allow educator with students to communicate. Also, Instagram increases motivation because it is predominantly liked by learners in Indonesia [29]. This application is very helpful between educators and students since it makes the learning process run properly during the pandemic.

Social media which exist in almost 89% of the world's population significantly change people's lifestyles. This media is necessary because it connects long distances to be close [30]. Furthermore, social media is a virtual world that share things about life, experiences, and daily activities [31]. This media which can serve as a communication tool tends to help people's lives when it is used properly. Social media can also serve as an online classroom where students and educators exchange ideas without coming to school. However, Instagram is the media learners usually used at the end of this year. This particular application is accessible worldwide to children, teenagers, adults, and old ones. People use Instagram to become more prominent, even though it has a negative impact [32].

This technological tool has several negative impacts on users in the world of education [33]. However, Instagram can help educators and students smooth learning during COVID-19. It also makes educational outcomes be achieved in line with the desired goals [34]. Furthermore, there are many applications such as YouTube, WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, and others that bring positive as well as negative influences on the world of education [35], [36]. YouTube contains a lot of learning-based films or news about the causes of COVID-19 [37]. This shows that social media [38] can damage people's minds to think. However, the media will have a positive impact when it is used as a forum for learning, business, finding relationships, and others.

This study emphasizes more on Instagram because Instagram was widely accessed by people to meet their economic life during COVID-19 [39]. Students also use this application as reference material to find information related to learning [40]. Through features such as news feeds, Instagram stories, and Instagram TV (IGTV), students can easily access educational content, study tips, or even participate in discussions related to their learning material. In this way, Instagram has become not only a tool for social interaction, but also a valuable learning resource for students at various levels of education. Thus, the role of Instagram in everyday life, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, is very relevant and significant. This platform not only facilitates individual economic activities, but also makes a meaningful contribution in the educational context by becoming a source of information and learning resources for students. Therefore, this research will further explore the impact and implications of using Instagram in an educational context, as well as how this platform can be utilized effectively to improve students' learning processes.

Previously, educators directly provide information but their students can now think brilliantly to find the right solutions to existing problems. This shows teachers are experts in using applications that can help learners to get information [41]. This shows a paradigm shift, where the teacher's role is not only as a transmitter of information, but also as a learning facilitator who helps students develop critical and analytical thinking skills. In this case, teachers who are proficient in using various applications and technology are very important. These applications can be effective tools in providing access to information, facilitating the process of finding solutions, and inspiring students to learn independently. By utilizing these applications, teachers can provide greater support to students in developing their abilities to overcome challenges and find appropriate solutions to the various problems they face. This creates a dynamic and inclusive learning environment, where students are encouraged to be active in their own learning process, while teachers act as facilitators guiding them towards achieving success.

Recently, students use Instagram to only view their friends' Snap grams, communicating unclearly with friends, and taking advantage of its effects [42]. This makes educators advise them to use social media for beneficial purposes because it is very triggering and impactful. Moreover, Instagram can make users aware of their lives, encourage students to learn, and add relationships or knowledge. This study aims to describe: i) the use of Instagram in learning; ii) creativity; and iii) the effect of using Instagram on learning creativity.

First, the use of Instagram in learning is attracting increasing attention in educational literature. Instagram, as one of the most popular social media platforms, offers various features that can be utilized in an educational context, from sharing information, videos, images, to social interaction. Educators and students have begun using Instagram as a tool to share learning materials, convey information, hold discussions, and promote collaboration between students. This platform enables more interactive and dynamic learning, where students can be actively involved in their learning process, both inside and outside the classroom. Second,

creativity is a key component in effective learning. The ability to think creatively and generate new ideas is an invaluable skill in today's information age. Instagram, with various features such as Instagram stories, IGTV, and other collaborative features, can be a platform that facilitates and encourages student creativity in an educational context. Through Instagram, students can express their ideas in a unique and creative way, using various media such as images, videos, and text. They can create creative projects, share their ideas with fellow students, and gain inspiration from the work of others. Third, this research will also explore the influence of using Instagram on students' learning creativity. Numerous studies have shown that the use of social media, including Instagram, can influence the way students learn and express their creativity. By interacting with a variety of visual and interactive content on Instagram, students can broaden their horizons, hone their visual skills and stimulate their imagination.

3. METHOD

The method used by researchers in this study is a quantitative method with a survey model carried out in two ways, namely offline and online. In this online stage, researchers can conduct interviews using a research questionnaire distributed to research subjects via WhatsApp. The questionnaire was created using Google Form which contains questions related to whether or not the Instagram application is useful in the world of education and answers in the form of short answers and multiple choices. The data is collected via Google Form directly [43]. The questionnaire was created in December 2021, where data was collected on Instagram users to determine the percentage of research results [44]. In the offline method, interviews were conducted with several application users in Lima Batusangkar, Indonesia. This interview stage is carried out by providing answers in accordance with the questions asked [45].

As for the criteria used by researchers in selecting subjects at this interview stage, namely students can provide clear information about the topic being discussed, students can give honest answers to the questions asked, students who utilize Instagram technology for the times, students who can understand the problems related to the questions asked, as for the population in this study are college Arabic students totaling 253. In this study, we examined the effects of the use of Instagram on the lives of people with disabilities. The results showed that the use of Instagram was associated with a significant increase in the number of people with disabilities. The more people with disabilities, the better; but there is also a minimum limit taken by the researcher, which is 50 people because the sample size that is feasible to take ranges between 30 to 50 people. Therefore, the researcher took a sample of 50 people in this study. As for the way the researcher controls confounding variables is by using the randomization method. As for the benefits of Instagram in the world of education, it is balanced between the groups. The validity test of the instrument carried out by the researcher in conducting this study can be known by calculating the data carried out through calculations using the person product moment formula on the values between variable X and variable Y, a little enlightenment about the learning contained in this application is given to users in the world of education.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

COVID-19, which originated in China, has spread globally since 2020 and has limited the ability of the public to participate in both formal and non-formal activities [46]. The pandemic can also result in severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) [47] and even death [48]. According to the Minister of Health, people need to maintain their health and pay attention to things that can prevent COVID-19 [46], [49].

The pandemic had a significant impact on education, preventing students from effectively participating in the learning process. However, educators, students, and educational means are important components of the learning process. Educators are those who can impart knowledge, while a student is a person who receives knowledge. Meanwhile, educational facilities are tools such as media that are used as support when the learning process takes place. The learning process is carried out online since the COVID-19 outbreak. Furthermore, technological tools can make it easier for educators to transfer their knowledge to students. This tool can also make them increase creativity in designing learning materials that attract students' enthusiasm. Meanwhile, students can repeat learning anywhere and anytime through judgment. YouTube, WhatsApp, TikTok, Zoom, Google Meet, and Instagram are examples of applications that can be used for education.

Also, educators can develop creative ideas through social media that is accessed during the pandemic. Several students feel bored when learning is done online since they follow it while relaxing. There are also students accessing other applications when learning is carried out effectively and efficiently. Therefore, educators play an important role by supervising and guiding them. It is very influential on teachers' mindsets when their students open Instagram as a joining material. People are familiar with Instagram because they use it as a means of information, education, entertainment, business, and others.

Several users of this application show their identity more deeply through the content created. This technological media, particularly Instagram can make it easier for people to get acquainted and communicate with others that are very close and far away.

Recently, students are dominant in using this application as a means of entertainment by creating various content to be known as a 'celebgram'. They can be considered a 'celebgram' when having a fairly high following. Meanwhile, the problem that arises amid COVID-19 is the lack of wisdom for educators and students in using the application. Students use Instagram as a filler of free time or as material to get feedback about their identity. They need to know that the application is not only a place to take pictures but also has interesting learning tools. Students need to be wise in using Instagram because it will bring good feedback and also makes them find opportunities.

4.1. Instagram as a tool in the learning process

According to Carvalho *et al.* [43], Instagram is a learning media that can be used and easily accessible by all students. This application has complete features to support the learning process since the tips on how to use it are indicated in the feed, Instagram story, and live. Therefore, Instagram is used as a medium that can help educators in the learning process. Instagram, as one of the most popular social media platforms, has evolved into a valuable tool in the learning process. Its strong presence among the youth facilitates its use as an effective educational medium. Furthermore, Instagram can also serve as a discussion forum through its comment features or polls in Stories, enabling more dynamic and responsive interactions between students and teachers, as well as among students themselves.

4.2. Instagram can increase motivation for learning enthusiasm

According to a study [50], Instagram is an image medium that motivates students to have a great curiosity about the material to be studied. Therefore, this application can increase students' curiosity and motivation in learning. Instagram, as a visual content-oriented social media platform, offers the potential to strengthen motivation and enthusiasm for learning. Various features such as stories, posts, and IGTV, make it easy for educators to distribute learning materials that are not only interesting but also inspiring. These features facilitate a more dynamic and interactive transmission of knowledge, which can improve the effectiveness of the teaching and learning process and stimulate students' curiosity and interest in learning.

4.3. Stimulate students' creativity in learning through Instagram

Based on previous study [51], viewing photos and videos on Instagram can stimulate creativity in teenagers [52]. Creativity is needed to enable youth to develop information obtained from educators and the environment in the form of knowledge. Instagram is indeed easy to operate by the general audience and this makes students interested in using it. This application is beneficial to users since it allows them to search for learning resources and information related to theories. Also, Instagram makes it easier for users to communicate with other parties.

Instagram is used for marketing goods to make it easier for users in the buying and selling process. Since the existence of COVID-19, people have dominated online shopping and still carry out the buying and selling process optimally. The application can also increase people's awareness and get closer to Allah SWT through feeds or posts related to religion. For instance, the homepage of one of *ustadz* (Islamic teacher) raises one's awareness in moving close to Allah Almighty. A user post containing *shalawat* (Islamic compliments) can also make people's hearts comfortable and peaceful as well as feel close to Allah Almighty.

It is only 39% of the respondents have problems using Instagram because it is not complicated. Therefore, this application is worthy of being used in the world of education to convey urgent material or information to students. Technological facilities are very useful for learning during the pandemic. From the results of the study, Table 1 presents the results of the distribution of Instagram application usage.

Table 1. Results of the distribution of Instagram application usage questionnaires

No.	Correspondent questions	Percentage rate	
		Yes	No
1	Is Instagram useful for users?	90.2%	9.8%
2	Is the application useful in the world of education?	70.7%	29.3%
3	Is Instagram used in the world of education	65.9%	34.1%
4	Do users have problems using the application?	61%	39%

5. CONCLUSION




Instagram is one of the technological tools that can make education properly function during the pandemic. The users of this application are faced with the problem of unwiseness and negligence in doing the tasks given by educators. This is because they only spend time on things that do not bring good feedback. Also, these users have negligence in carrying out their obligations to Allah SWT. They find this application very useful in the world of education, entertainment, or business. These users can use Instagram to find learning materials and the latest information related to the world of education. An example of entertainment is that users feel entertained through several posts on their Instagram or Snap grams. Moreover, users can use this application to promote their merchandise in the business world. This study shows that users can use Instagram properly to have good feedback in the future. Users are not allowed to spend time with the application without achieving good feedback.

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