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Should Young Kids Be Allowed Electronic Devices?

How far have we come from having to go to a library and read a word from a thick book called “Dictionary” because we didn’t understand what that word meant? Now in the early 21st century, needing only a small electric device and 2 thumbs to type the word we don’t know and reading what the word means within seconds. Some would say it’s a technological breakthrough and the years progressing it’ll only be easier and easier however what does this do to our young? Does this new age of advanced technology help us in the way we need or does it handicap us to the point where we need electronic devices to progress in everyday life? Will the younger generations be disabled from the outside world and be attached and incapable of going without looking down at a small black square that they hold in their hands?

One thing about being a more new generation and a more advanced generation are the effect it could have on what we do in our lives later. Now we know it will be much more simpler and easier with the devices now to the future and perhaps may become even more easier with time but the effects of being too advanced is the effects of the young age. It is a fact that the younger generation will be the future. What if they can’t understand what social life is? Today we have the ability to communicate with someone across the world, however communicating through a device is very much different from face to face. In physical interaction we have social cues, we can read body language, and even facial expressions, through a device all we have is tone of voice and facial expression if it's via facetime but even then some people rather not

communicate through facetime. Today's generation prefers texting rather than call or face to face, but why? In a study conducted by LivePerson their results showed 7 out of 10 GenZ young adults and teenagers prefer texting than face to face socialization.

In addition another problem with giving the younger generation electronic devices is that it cuts them off from the real world. Young adults and teenagers develop lack of socialness and have different mental health issues such as depression, loneliness, and a new problem called "FOMO" (Fear of Missing Out) in a research study done by National Institute of Health. In the study it gave a study of young adults in a room who were socially awkward or felt socially awkward with no electronic device in the room, proving they had lack of socialness. In another a Two cross-sectional survey from American and German universities showed those who had Facebook had feelings of envy toward people online and some developed eating disorders for not being like those who they envied. While different studies have shown their lack of socialness there are benefits to this new way of living for the youth.

While the youth will become the generation that will be much more independent but also far more creative than the previous generation. There are many different social media platforms, websites, and blogs where not only the young generation (12-18) but also older generation (25-45) will come together in one idea or another to build off of and help each other. Not only will this help them come together and build but it'll provide even comfort to one person who doesn't find comfort or safety in their physical or social spot. While not only coming together to find one good point or small comfort in time it can provide friendship through a lifetime. In a study done by Amanda Lenhart, Senior Research Specialist and Mary Madden, Senior Research Specialist (Friendships, Strangers, and Safety in Online Social Networks) showed 1 in 4 teens make online friends also proving 1 of 3 young boys state they have friends or met 1 friend whom

they have never met. While this may be seen as a great thing that someone or people can become social online without seeing or meeting in person, it is something of a nightmare because anyone can lie.

Now with giving a young generation an electronic device with all this freedom in social media and the internet it can very much benefit the future. There are precautionary measures that can be given not so it can be outlawed but rather implemented. Instead of giving young adults and children freedom to search their electronic device, it can be monitored (which is already done by parents) and also monitored with restrictions. Now it may seem too much but there are settings already done by big companies i.e. Apple and Youtube as well as Google. Now with that in mind who is to stop these young adults from undoing what their parents have done. It is the parents or even young adults' responsibility to know what is right and wrong. The implications with giving a young generation this freedom is what they can reach. There is a place called “The Dark Web” where it has everything anyone can think of, from evil to something good. The internet is an everlastingly growing place where people come to post and develop a different person. The internet houses people who want to be something else and homes people who simply want to cause mayhem on anyone who is gullible enough to fall in their trap. It is very safe to say the internet and social media is a very very dangerous place for anyone to be on.

Finally in conclusion should young children or young adults be allowed to have electronic devices, more no than yes. There is a fine line to where one can walk because both are very beneficial and on the other hand very harmful. While young adults and children can benefit with creativity and independence of growth they can also be scrutinized and punished for doing nothing but being innocent online. Research has shown 54 percent of teens have been exposed to harmful content such as suicide, self-harm, pornography, and other explicit content that should

not be in the eyes of a child 12-19. From one's view they don't seem harmful nor too bad but we must see the consideration of age. A young kid exposed to something along the lines of death or loss or something bad is maybe a age of 16. What if a kid exposed to that is at the age of 7 or 5, will they understand what is happening? Will it scar them emotionally and change their way of thinking? In 2023 we are the generation that will see the possible long term effects of having electronic devices in the palm of our hands literally. The generation after will see these exposures and what will they assume? It is part of life or should there be more accurate studies to show just how important it is for young kids or adults to own an electronic device or to not.

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