Is This Generation Really Being Ruined By the Internet?

You must have read many articles saying that, technology has emptied the play grounds, made family dinners quieter and have made people way dependent on technology to do anything on their own. And I think, the list will be quite long if we are given a task to make a list of negative impacts of technology on our lives.

For the most part, however, I think technology does us better than harm. It helps us to reconnect with our old friends, help us to learn how to cook, or to learn a foreign language, also encouraged us to be healthy and many other things. I myself have been scolded by my mother for being stuck with my phone and laptop for hours, but guess what? Where did I get my dose of being off technology and spend time with my family? It was the people on the internet; spilling words of wisdom all over me! And that brought back the balance between the time I spend with people in reality and the amount of time I spend with people virtually.

It's a circle. People think that technology is making a negative impact on us, but again, they read how to beat those negative impacts of technology through the technology itself (that's Internet). Let's see what else is happening through internet?

1.People learn to deal problems on their own (any type of problem, educational, financial, problems related to parenting, career, relationships, you name it!) There is forums for everything where some people ask questions and others give solutions that have actually worked out for them. Now that's pretty much similar to us asking solution to our friend.
2.Read blogs of people who have accomplished a lot in their lives,
3.Learn about entrepreneurship,
4.Receive motivation to pursue their passion, to get out of the room and meet people, and gain wisdom.
5.Learn to share information to make other's lives better.

Yes, I agree that people have become conscious about their image on social media and are under pressure of being judge by other people. Where are you getting the information about hazards of radiation from electronic gadgets?

Well, it is internet itself! Where do you find '10 ways to lose weight'? Or 'How to start a conversation? Or 'How to live a healthy life'? How do people find a motivation to travel? Again, internet it is! People accuse the technology for trapping people in the houses, but I believe, it is the Internet which is motivating people to go out, experience, come back, share experience and motivate others to go out and experience the same. I heard this in a seminar and I find it very true, "As there was agricultural era, industrial era, information era, knowledge era (the one we are living in), the next era is going to be 'the wisdom era'." Yes you have all the information and knowledge at your fingertips but how do you use it to live a better and fulfilling life? That's what we will be learning in the 'Wisdom Era'. How that wisdom is going to reach us? Through Internet and other communication technologies.

Technology has impacted almost every aspect of our life today, and I believe, education is no exception. Now you don't have to go to a library to find the book to learn something. We have enormous amount of books, audios, videos, images, blogs, and podcasts available on internet right in our palms. However, I think; the technology has made availability of information and knowledge so easy that, a teacher's role in a classroom is being moved to 'Guide' than being major source of learning. With all this, I do not agree, when I hear people complaining about smartphones being a reason to ruin our young generation. Because, it always has been subject of concern for elder people.

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Our grandparents were concerned about our parents, for what is being shown in the cinema and ruining their lives, our parents were concerned about their kids being glued to the television and now the television has been replaced with smartphones. This concern for 'what will happen to the next generation' will keep on repeating, for years to come.

As I read in an article by Gary Vaynerchuck, "The problem is that we get scared of everything that we didn't grow up with; it's what human beings do. Every new medium brings along a healthy fear that the newest invention will ruin society. But, the truth is that people will always be looking for new ways to be entertained, consume media, and engage with each other."

So instead of saying that technology or internet is ruining our generation, I would say it is just an evolution of how we live our lives.

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"Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself."- George Bernard Shaw