The Fundamental Solution for Maximising Children's Online Opportunities and Minimising Their Online Risks: Critical Media Literacy

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In this alarming era where almost every human activity is mediated – from talking to your family to finding your date – what is the best way to help our future generation to be an autonomous user of technology rather than to be enslaved by the power of technology? The answer is educating children to develop critical media literacy skills. It is the fundamental solution for minimising children's online risks and maximising their online opportunities.

So far, comparatively less attention has been put in children's personal life while the importance of media literacy education in schools has been widely debated in the academia. Academia has been focused on defining media literacy and proving the effectiveness of education models to grow such skillset from the educator's point of view while, ironically, asserting media education should incorporate both top-down and bottom-to-top approaches. When and through what motivation children develop a critical mindset in using digital media remains comparatively less explored.

Particularly, knowing how the generation, people in their 20s, who have experienced the transition from traditional to new media era navigate themselves in the abounding media and communication sources without much assistance from school media education would be beneficial to understand students' purview and their way of honing critical media literacy skills by themselves.

Overall, I intend to fill the gap in the academia; lack of discussion about children's personal life and attempts to corroborate predictive values of the elements affecting them to have critical media literacy skills in their personal and educational backgrounds.