Digital Wisdom
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Abstract - The digital revolution is here to stay. Digital technologies can make us clever and wiser. Our need of digital wisdom is important and urgent. It will help us behave properly in the digital world where there are no secrets and everything is open. This paper presents a brief introduction to digital wisdom.

Keywords: digital wisdom, digital technologies

I. INTRODUCTION
Most aspects of our lives are technology-oriented. We communicate with mobile devices, use GPS to get directions, and socially interact on Facebook and Twitter. The way we make decisions is getting more sophisticated because of digital technologies. In the digital age, information is always at our finger tips. We have heard a lot about digital communication, digital cities, digital government, digital divide, digital identity, digital signatures, digital libraries, digital money, digital death, digital law, digital culture, digital university, digital education, digital citizenship, digital games, etc.

Wisdom is a universal concept which is hard to define. It includes understanding and applying knowledge. Some have defined wisdom as the ability to apply knowledge effectively to new situations [1].

Wisdom may be classified into two kinds: sophia (theoretical wisdom) and phronesis (practical wisdom). Sophia emphasizes on how to explore, explain, and understand knowledge, while phronesis shows how to use the knowledge into practice [2]. Wisdom is needed to live a good life and be success in this world. This is because wisdom presupposes that we live in a predictable logical world and we are thinking creatures [3].

Digital wisdom is a term first coined by Marc Prensky “for integrating the technology of our times into our thinking and decision making, doing it wisely, and sharing the results”[4]. Digital wisdom is a new wisdom that requires finding the best combination of mind and technology. It is the wisdom received through a creative use of digital technologies. In other words, digital tools can make us truly wiser and digital wisdom comes from thoughtful use of digital technologies. Applying wisdom leads to wisdom city (smart city), wisdom nation, and wisdom earth.

II. BEING DIGITALLY WISE
Being digitally wise involves allowing machines to do what people want them to do. It may mean being careful what we do online. Wisdom comes from different sources: individual wisdom, collective or organizational wisdom (wisdom of crowd) and machine wisdom (artificial intelligence). The wisdom of the crowd (WoC) is being practiced in many enterprises. It assumes that the collective decisions of a large group of individuals are usually better than a single expert. The members of the group must be diverse and independent [5].

Here then are twelve precepts that can make us digitally wise [6]:
1. Be judicious: You are on a public stage and so be careful.
2. Be chaste: Only press “send” when you have something to say. If not, stay silent.
3. Be courteous: In dissent, be questioning rather than assertive.
4. Be disciplined: Don’t sprawl lazily across multiple tweets on the same topic.
5. Be conversational: Invite responses and give them.
6. Be interesting: Don’t bore followers with trivia. Try to be original.
7. Be tentative: The question-mark is a great way of turning bald statement into an invitation to explore.
8. Be communitarian: Social media are at their best in creating online communities and relationships.
11. Be generous: Share your own good things: stories, photos, blogs etc.

III. WISDOM ENHANCED BY TECHNOLOGY
Digital technology can lead to greater wisdom because it enhances our [7]:
- Access to data
- Ability to conduct deeper analysis
- Ability to plan and prioritize
- Insights into others
- Access to alternative perspectives

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Digital technologies are capable of facilitating the development of wisdom and wise decision making.

Digital tools already enhance our cognitive capabilities, enhance memory (we forget easily), enhance judgment, helping us perform complex analyses. For example, expert systems are sophisticated digital tools that can help humans access an array of data based on the expertise of hundreds of human experts in a given field.

The impact of digital technologies on contemporary students cannot be denied. In order for education to remain relevant in the digital age, our education institutions must integrate digital wisdom in their 21st century curricula. Our institutions of higher education must go beyond just disseminating information; they must focus on creating knowledge and helping students to acquire wisdom. Knowledge and wisdom are becoming more important to society. Availability of technology in the classroom is not enough; teachers must wisely use technology to promote life-long learning and develop their students’ digital literacy skills. Digital technologies assist students in developing twenty-first-century skills.

IV. CONCLUSION

The pervasive presence of the digital technologies has created the need to become wiser through the use of these media. Of course, technology alone will not replace human thinking, sound judgment, and problem-solving abilities. Digital wisdom will help us navigate through a complex, advanced world. It is needless to say that not everyone believes that digital enhancement can make us smarter and wiser. Some of our digital enhancements may bring ethical dilemmas. With our eyes wide open to the potential benefits and harms of digital technologies, let us pursue digital wisdom in order to succeed in the twenty-first century [8].

REFERENCES


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