

## Key Point

 **Telegram does not let you send a message to someone just by knowing their phone number.**

- Unlike SMS or WhatsApp Business, you **cannot send directly by phone number**.
- Telegram only allows sending if:
  - The user has **started a chat with your bot** (so you know their chat\_id).
  - Or you already have their chat\_id from a previous interaction.

So if the student **doesn't click** the "Verify Telegram" link (deep link), your bot **has no chat\_id**, and Telegram won't deliver any messages to them.

## Possible Scenarios

### Scenario A: User verified (clicked bot link)

-  Admin clicks **Send PDF** in backend.
- System uses telegram\_chat\_id saved in DB.
- PDF is sent successfully.

### Scenario B: User submitted form but didn't verify bot

-  Admin clicks **Send PDF**.
- System cannot send to Telegram, because no chat\_id.
- Even if you collected a "Telegram phone number" field in form, you still cannot use it to send directly.

## Workarounds

1. **Force Verification Flow** (recommended):
  - a. Always generate telegram\_link\_token.

- b. In submission list, show status:
  - i.  Verified → Send button active.
  - ii.  Not verified → Show "Send Verify Link" instead.
- c. Admin can copy/share that deep link manually if student skipped it.

2. **Alternative Channels (Fallback):**

- a. If Telegram is not verified, system can:
  - i. Email PDF to student's email (if collected).
  - ii. Send SMS/WhatsApp with download link (if needed).
- b. This ensures delivery even if Telegram not set up.

3. **Extra User Field:**

- a. You may add a form field: "*Enter your Telegram Username (optional)*".
- b. Then, admin can **manually search and contact them** in Telegram app.
- c.  But automation still requires verification because username ≠ chat\_id.

## Conclusion

-  If student **clicks Verify link** → fully automatic PDF delivery via Telegram.
-  If student **never clicks Verify link** → you cannot send via bot, even if you have their phone number or username.
-  Best practice: Always guide them to click bot link → store chat\_id once → then superadmin can send anytime from backend.