

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.