ENRICHING TEACHING & LEARNING SKILLS IN EDUCATION THROUGH SMART TECHNOLOGY

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Abstract: Technology is allover intertwined with education in almost every part of our country. These two are like two faces of the same coin. With their great and increasing presence in our lives it only makes sense to follow many techniques in the classroom. This technology is not only used to support both teaching and learning, but also infuses classrooms with digital learning tools, such as computers and hand held devices. This improves student engagement and motivation; and fosters learning. Technology also has the power to renovate teaching by ushering in a new model of connected teaching. This model links teachers to their students and to professional content, resources, and systems to help them improve their own instruction and personalize learning. The purpose of this paper is to focus on the technological tools used like smart phone, computer, power point and so on to empower education.

Keywords: Technology, Education, Computer, Smart Phone.

Introduction: Educational technology is a logical and structured method of applying modern technology to progress the value of education. Learning and teaching goes hand in hand and this is done with the application of modern educational teaching techniques. Technology really has good impact on education because learners of today have their own intellectual smart phones with them where they learn a variety of new things immediately. These different technology uses in the class room have shown a vast impact on the overall education of students around the world. Technology helps the teachers to prepare their students for the real world atmosphere. Integrating technology in education everyday helps students stay engaged. Technologies like open educational resources and other technologies can increase educational productivity by accelerating the rate of learning.

What is Technology in Education?

Technology is everywhere in education. It is the use of both physical hardware and educational theories. It includes various activities like learning activities based on computer based learning, training, online training. Accordingly, there are several discrete aspects to describe the intellectual and technical development of educational technology: It is the theory and practice of learning, it is the media that assist in the communication of knowledge, and its development and exchange, used as a tool for student and curriculum management. Educational technology has itself become as an educational subject; such courses may be called as "Computer Studies". Educational technology is not restricted to high technology. Education technology is anything that enhances classroom learning in the utilization of blended or online learning. Educational technologists try to analyze, design, develop, implement and evaluate process and tools to enhance learning.

Problems faced by the Students: All over the world students face a number of problems which discourage them. It leads to nervousness among the student community giving rise to student disturbances. Attitude change and technological literacy would help them gain confidence in order to succeed in their courses. Switching from traditional classroom and to face instructor training to computer-based training in a virtual classroom makes the learning experience entirely different for students. Students with a traditional mindset find it difficult to adapt; however, they need to accept the new learning circumstances with an open mind and heart. In an overcrowded classroom, understanding is very difficult whereas in smart class the task becomes easy. One of the biggest issues is the fact that most classes are still in English. While there are some who may speak English, not all do, which can put certain students at a disadvantage. Some students suffer a lot due to this. But when it is technology based there are many online classrooms that work with translators and are slowly translating their courses so they can be used by people all around.

Why Technology in Education?

There are countless reasons why technology is a key aspect of learning in the schools. Whether we like it or not, technology is everywhere; and in order for our students to survive in post-secondary education and the business world, they must know technology. Technology needs to come into the classroom to keep up with the learning demands of the 21st century. Online classrooms are being used all over the world and are creating global classrooms. This can help to increase the number of students in developing and third world countries to get the education they need. Students are engaging with technology constantly outside of the classroom. Students like to be interactive, and learning through technology has now become a part of their lifestyle.

Students know technology better than most adults. It has become the easiest way they learn, because it is such an essential part of their life. Engaging with technology in the classroom has not only helped them learn better, but they also to acquire multi-tasking skills. This knowledge is important, because they would be way behind in the real world without it. Technology changes so quickly.

Smart Phones in Improving Education: Smart phones promote a number of concrete skills among students. Implementation of smart phones in curriculums makes students to learn and participate in educational activities from anywhere, regardless of the subject of study. Research shows (Shudong Wang and Simon Smith-Reading and Grammar Learning Through Mobile Phones) that the kind of increased exposure towards smart phones can actually help to increase reading. Furthermore, despite the relatively small screen sizes, smart phones are often used for reading on the go. Research suggests that on average, 76.6% of students spend more than 30 minutes a day reading or sending messages on their mobile phones; and 79.5% spend more than 30 minutes browsing the Internet on their mobile phones. If students were to engage in reading activities on their phone for just a small portion of this time, it could be inferred that measurable improvements in their reading ability could be attained.

Students spend more time for games and phones. Motivating them to use it for learning seems to be a difficult task. Moreover making them to spend it for improving other skills acquire higher-level task. Materials sent via email can be stored in the receiver's inbox folder and can be retrieved and accessed any time. Because students always carry their mobile phones, they can review the materials as many times as they want.

Electronic Tablets in Improving Learning: In classroom, learning activities using electronic tablet improves understanding skills, digital skills, creativity, independent learning and motivation. Most of the teachers who work in schools and colleges have the same opinion. During 2012-2013, over 2,000 pupils and 150 teachers in early childhood, primary, secondary and special education, took part in a study to identify the best learning activities with tablets, and the advantages and disadvantages of using them. The study highlights a large number of advantages in using electronic tablets, such as access to sources of information on internet, and, providing resources for different learning activities.

Furthermore, it is believed that electronic tablets direct teachers to apply student-centered, improving methodologies help to deal with diversity among pupils. The electronic tablets assist independent learning (as they provide interaction and tools), help develop pupils' digital skills, improve comprehension (through images, simulations and video), encourage creativity (by helping to find and organize information and discuss ideas), and increase pupils' involvement and motivation. When students read electronic texts they were capable of understanding the main theme of the text.

Use of Computers: The utilization of computers in language teaching influences not only the efficacy of teaching but also students' language aptitude. This is an appropriate attempt to be made in order to have an impact on the troubles being faced. As the recent teaching aids, the use of computers is viewed as an effort that could change students' opinion on language learning. As operators of teaching, language teachers need to have skills to conduct computer-aided language teaching.

Even though there may be difficulties in the implementation steps, teachers need to be equipped with the skills and knowledge to match with the current educational needs that require more student-centered teaching. Computers may possibly draw students' attention in education and teachers in teaching easily use it. Students are able to concentrate on the lessons as the computer displays text and colorful pictures that will attract the interest and concentration of students. Computer assisted language learning encourages students to actively participate in class activities that are implemented during teaching and learning. Teachers should include the use of computers in the teaching of reading in a curriculum and not just focus on textbooks alone.

Powerpoint in Classroom: PowerPoint is a successful tool to deliver material in the classroom and persuade students' various skills. PowerPoint is highly used to assist the teacher and the students in teaching learning process. The use of PowerPoint can be one of the important aids for teaching in classes. It makes the students feel more enjoyable in learning English so that the atmosphere of the class is more favorable.

PowerPoint plays a major role in the development of students' skill. To improve students' interest in learning skill, the teacher should make the lesson more fascinating and competent to reduce the students' difficulties. As a result, the teacher needs an appropriate technique. The appropriate technique has a significant role in determining the success of teaching learning process.

PowerPoint gives a new strategy for the students in learning. PowerPoint stimulates students' interest, when pictures are included. While using PowerPoint students will pay much attention to the pictures, charts, tables, etc. In addition, the sizes of the letters appear bigger and highlighted which would help learning the words, spelling, etc.

Conclusion: Students may come across more words when different tools of technologies are used. This was proved in the test I conducted by us. 100 words were shown to the students using computer, smart phone & power point. Students showed about 50% improvement in the recognition of words in the test conducted. Students were not familiar with the words in the beginning. Towards the end of the learning process, they learned to identify more words. Nearly 60 % of the students showed progress. The results indicated that students' fluency in terms of accuracy had automatically improved because of the use of technological tools. It is also found that the use of different technological tools were compact and accessible to the teachers. Students utilized the tools to understand connections between ideas, guess the meanings of words, used contextual clues to gain a deeper understanding of the text.

The use of a variety of tools allowed students to interact with the teachers and each other well and had raised their interest even in learning the phonics rules. Students especially enjoyed the use of technological tools such as mobile phones, computer, PowerPoint, and electronic tablet. They also mentioned that they achieved a sense of satisfaction as they used these tools and they also mentioned that they have become more confident in trying to become most efficient readers.

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