INFLUENCE OF ICT ENABLED TEACHING AND LEARNING

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Abstract

Education always aims to develop new ideas about learning and teaching. Teachers are regularly given suggestions for reform. They are motivated to use new curricula and new teaching strategies. Teachers are the real driving force behind creative thinking in the educational institutions. The successful student – teacher relationship makes the learning a joyful one. In today's scenario, Educational Institutions are becoming more competitive because of the rapidly growing number of institutions. To provide quality education and to overcome the new challenges, the institutions should adopt the latest trends and keep pace with the latest technology. It is believed that Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are the primary agents for transformation towards sustainable development in the quality of education. ICT provides opportunities for colleges to communicate with one another through email. Thus ICT plays a vital role in enhancing the quality of Higher Education in India. This paper focuses on the influence of ICT on the academic performance of students in Indian Higher Education.

Keywords: Education, Teachers, students, ICT, WhatsAPP.

1. Introduction

In this digital era, the world has witnessed a phenomenal growth in communication technology, computer networking and information technology. Development of new broadband communication services and convergence of telecommunication with computers have produced numerous methods to use many new technology tools for teaching and learning process. The development of

these communication and computer systems, the power and diversity of information transfer let the teachers and students have access to a world beyond the classroom [1]. ICT has the ability to transform the process of learning environment and can visualize a new learning culture. It opens up opportunities for learning because it allows learners to access transformation and share ideas and information in multi-modal communication styles and formats. It helps the learner to exchange learning resources and spaces, promote learner centered and collaborative learning principles and improve critical thinking, innovative thinking and problem solving skills. When teaching is supported by ICT, teaching and learning will not be the same as before. We have to depend upon the rich and exciting opportunities provided by the new technologies in education to reach our new goal and vision.

2. Paradigm Shifts

At present Education around the world is experiencing major paradigm shifts in educational practices because of ICT enabled learning environment. Learning through facts, rules and procedures was more adaptive in earlier days, learning through projects and problems, inquiry and design, discovery and invention, creativity and diversity, action and reflection is perhaps more fitting for the present times. The major learning change is from teacher centered to learner focus paradigm. During the last three decades, the model, focus, role of the learner and technology have changed drastically from traditional instruction to virtual learning environment. The role of the teachers will change from knowledge transmitter to that of facilitator, knowledge navigator and sometime as co-learner. The new role of teachers insists a new way of thinking and understanding of the new vision of learning process. Learners will have more responsibilities of their own learning as they seek out, find, synthesize, and share their knowledge with others [2]. ICT provides powerful tools to support the shift from teacher centered to learner centered paradigm and new roles of teacher, learner, curricula and new media. ICT has the potential to modify the nature of education: where, when, how and the way learning takes place. It will facilitate

the emergence of responsible knowledge society emphasizing continuous learning with meaningful and enjoyable learning experiences. ICT changes the old traditional paradigm of learning to the new paradigm of learning. E-learning through WI-FI connections helps the learners to collect the needed data anytime from anywhere. Smart Classrooms, Electronic classrooms and Multimedia Classrooms are very common among the learners.

3. WhatsAPP in teaching learning process

Mobile learning involves combining mobile technology with other ICT, to enable learning anytime and anywhere. Learning can unfold in a variety of ways: people can use mobile devices to access educational resources, connect with others, or create content, both inside and outside classrooms [3]. Mobile learning also encompasses efforts to support broad educational goals such as the effective administration of school systems and improved communication between schools and families. Today over 6 billion people have access to a connected mobile device and for every person who accesses the internet from a computer to do so from a mobile device.

Mobile technology is changing the way we live and it is beginning to change the way we learn. UNESCO is working to help governments and individuals use mobile devices to advance Education for all Goals; respond to the challenges of particular educational contexts; supplement and enrich formal schooling; and, in general, make learning more accessible, equitable and flexible for students everywhere. Using portable computing devices (such as iPads, laptops, tablet PCs, and smart phones) with wireless networks enables mobility and mobile learning, allowing teaching and learning to extend to spaces beyond the traditional classroom. Within the classroom, mobile learning gives instructors and learners increased flexibility and new opportunities for interaction [4].

- People are considering internet and Smartphone as basic elements in life. WhatsAPP is one of the most popular messengers in the world. It is an instant messaging app that helps people to exchange their views for free. In our country, WhatsAPP is the important messaging tool. It is a next generation teaching tool.

Creating WhatsAPP account is the first step to use it as a teaching learning tool. The Professors who are using this as a teaching tool can have a separate mobile number for WhatsAPP account opening and they need not use their personal mobile number. Professors are supposed to create a group in the name of the class and upload her/ his recent photo as a profile picture. She or He will be considered as the admin of the group. After that the students are added in the group with their prior knowledge. Students should be instructed not to do personal chatting in that group. The professors can use the above App in the following ways [5].

3.1. Accessibility to study materials

The class notes can be uploaded in the group by the professors. Notes can be in the form of pictures, videos and audio lessons. These notes and study materials can be downloaded and stored by the students and made use of at the time of their convenience.

3.2. Sending information

Using this platform, professors can post important instructions and notifications about the activities that are to be carried out inside and outside the campus for the welfare of the students. It also serves as a platform for discussions. The students can give their feedback about the teaching of the staff. It can involve more students in the interactions compared to real time teaching [6].

Using these App ideas can be shared between people. Here both the staff and students can share the new vocabularies with examples. Students can clarify their grammatical doubts with the known people. General knowledge questions, aptitude questions, problem solving questions, interview tips, motivational quotes can be posted by any one of the group members to other members of the group [7].

Advantages of WhatsAPP in higher education

o It is a free collaborative learning method.
o the student teacher relationship can be improved.
o It creates a good audio-visual learning environment.

- ○ It enhances the ICT skills.
- ○ It develops self learning.
- ○ It provides an opportunity for the student to mingle with their classmates and share their views.

Challenges to WhatsAPP in higher education

- ❖ Students may find distraction easily.
- ❖ Some students may find it difficult to understand the content that is shared on WhatsAPP every day.
- ❖ Students may misuse it.

4. Conclusion

Teaching and learning will not be the same as before as we become increasingly accustomed to using ICT. We will have to make use of the rich and exciting opportunities offered by the new technologies in education to reach our training goal and mission. Several view points of integrating ICT in teaching and learning system has been discussed. Learning is not a transfer of knowledge, rather an active construction. This paradigm shift gives the learners a completely new role that was not earlier described in the transmission model of teaching. Every new innovative technology is like the two faces of a coin. It has both positive and negative aspects. The teachers and the learners may use ICT in a proper way and can utilize their learning for their development.

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