

# APPLICATION OF IT IN EDUCATION: E-PODIUM TECHNOLOGY (E-LEARNING TOOL)

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The introduction of IT has become an essential part of education and training in educational institutions and establishments, new technologies are appearing with each passing day that enhance the standard of education and training and makes learners and educators more approachable to these technologies. This introduction of information technologies in education is now the most important means of meeting the needs and expectations of student, universities, educational institutions, community and society as a whole.

## 2. BACKGROUND

**1. Mobile learning technology:** It has been implemented in several leading institutions around the world and proved a significant positive trend in the education field. M-learning has facilitated video conferencing among the students and with their lecturers. M-learning could bring many opportunities in the education field but M-learning in cooperation with E-podium technology can be used to manage the course-material delivered within the class and make them available for students even though when they are not attending the class.

**2. E-PODIUM:** E-podium is a podium (lecture stand or presentation station) with 1 to 2 touch screens and a built-in PC where a projector or a laptop or even both can be connected and presentations can be controlled from the touch screen. It has its own built in audio/visual system and can be connected to an external audio system as well. In addition it has a unique controller that allows the user to control the projector on/off, lights on/off and a DVD layer.

E-Podium is an electronic device that can be used to record the lecture while the lecturer delivers his/her lecture in the class. It controls the classroom's components by special Hardware and Software packages designed to facilitate and make it easy to spread the knowledge to a large number of audiences. This device has proved itself as one of the efficient mediums for sharing knowledge in large organizations as well as spreading new ideas that bring many people. The impact of using such technology in the education field can positively affect the face-to-face sessions and switch it to online learning sessions.

E-podium technology facilitate keeping track of the lecture-material during the course of teaching. Students can easily access the recorded lecture through recent E-learning technology, e.g. by means of their laptops, or M-learning technology, e.g. by means of mobile devices smartphones, tablets etc.

## 3. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

This study focuses on how the learning process is managed in such a way it gets the most out of knowledge resources that facilitate the access to the teaching material. The traditional way of teaching where the lecturer regularly puts the lecture-material in the concerned class's computer and starts illustrating the lecture without relying on an educational knowledge sharing system. Absent/remote students are facing a difficulty in acquiring the delivered lecture in the class. This study sheds the light on how students and specifically those who are not able to attend the class regularly.

This paper attempts to identify the **major issues** encountered in the learning process:

- The delivery of the material is through the concerned class's computer which is made available at the start of the lecture. The handing over is inefficient such that each student collects the material after the lecture is via their USB flash. The knowledge explained during the lecture is not documented in an electronic form and has to be observed and noted by the student himself.
- For part time students, it is common practice that a student cannot attend classes, off course usually due to their work demands .So, "how such students could get the lecture-material?" and even if they acquire it, how can they understand it? It is impractical to ask the lecturer to repeat his lecture or parts from it. This is not only concerned with lecture material but also with assignment description provided in the class. The performance of students missing their lectures as well as their assignments is affected; sometimes this could lead to a failure and causes the student to repeat the course/module. This raises the need for tools that could be utilized to access the lecture, materials, and assessments.
- A well-programmed website has its limited usage. Websites are used only for announcements, pictures gallery and other information about the Institution. They are not used efficiently to support the learning process as well as to manage the course material in order to be provided to the students. This raises the need for web content that supports the learning process.

## 4. PROPOSED SOLUTION

The proposed solution combines four different technological resources: M-learning, E-Podium, Institution's Website and Video Conferencing. E-podium device allows recording of lectures on real time. Mobile learning allows the lecturers to upload/update the course-material to their personal web page at their convenience. Students at the same time will get an access to lectures' material as well as to the course-material.

- i) The *Epodium device* is used to record the lecture while the lecturer delivers it in the class.
- ii) The recorded lecture will be immediately uploaded to the lecturer's web page once the lecture is finished.
- iii) Each lecturer should create a particular folder for the particular course that s/he is teaching in her/his web page. Organizing the folders in this way can easily help the lecturer to upload the recorded lecture to the concerned course folder.
- iv) Once the recorded lecture is uploaded to the lecturer's web page, it can easily be accessed by the students at their convenient time using their mobile devices (e.g. tablets, smartphones).
- v) This part of the solution helps properly in improving the knowledge management of lectures' content within the institution in an effective way which enables documenting the knowledge sources (recorded lecture, presentations, and assessments) in an online electronic form.

This acquired knowledge can be easily transferred and exchanged through the students. Furthermore, students who are not able to attend the lecture can easily use their mobile devices and communicate with their lecturer via video-conferencing during the lecturer's office-hour to discuss issues regarding the material or using any of the freely available chatting applications such as: Hangout, Skype, Mypeople, and many others. It enables the students to interactively learn from their lecturers.

**Conclusion:** E-Podiums are the perfect addition to schools, colleges, universities, auditoriums or any location where presentations are given. It is a tool that allow people and businesses to share their message in vibrant and exciting way, whether it's in classroom, conference centre, public area or commercial space.

#### REFERENCES

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