

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

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ABSTRACT

The world is constantly changing and ways in which we function at home, work and school are also changing. The speed at which technology has developed plays a major role in these changes. Various types of technologies are used at present in classroom. Technology in classroom is manifested through the use of computers. This is also a great help for teachers since they can already enhance their teaching skills and strategies every time they are facing their class. This technology is very essential in the classroom but there are some instances wherein this technology is been to be disadvantageous. Present paper focuses on Advantages and Disadvantages of technology in the classroom.

KEYWORDS : Technology, classroom, computer, teaching skill.

INTRODUCTION

Technology slowly seems to be taking over many aspects of human society. Education has gradually evolved to incorporate technology in dissemination of information. This advancement has revolutionized the classroom environment leading to improved grades and learning experiences. While a small group of conservative minded individuals remains skeptical about the use of technology in the classroom, the merits are self-evident. The question now remains , how is technology best utilized in the classroom and what are the potential advantages? As tablet computers and others smart devices slowly replace textbooks, we must also examine the challenges facing implementation of technology in education. The main argument for incorporating technology in classroom is students should be able to apply classroom concepts to daily life with ease. Understanding the role technology plays in the classrooms and workplace among other areas is of vital importance. Staying competitive in the 21st century dictates the need for technological finesse. However , one of the biggest problems facing the radical change in the centuries-old pedagogical methods used in education is that no parent wants their children to be the initial case study.

Educators have seen firsthand the benefits of technology in the classroom. According to a study by IT trade Association CompTIA released, around 75 percent of educators think that technology has a positive impact in the education process. Educators also recognize the importance of developing these technological skills in students so they will be prepared to enter the workforce once they complete their schooling.

While many education experts tout the advantages of incorporating technology into the school curriculum and the classroom, technology can sometimes hinder learning and the educational

process. Because schools occasionally purchase technology before their systems and educators are adequately equipped for and trained to use it effectively, technology sometimes goes unused or actually prevents students learning. Becoming aware of some of the disadvantages in utilizing technology in the classrooms can allow schools to better prepare for the widespread use of computers and devices by their student and teacher populations.

OBJECTIVES

1. To know the types of Technology used in the classroom.
2. To know the advantages of Technology in the classroom.
3. To know the disadvantages of Technology in the classroom.

TYPES OF TECHNOLOGY USED IN THE CLASSROOM

1. Use of computers in the classroom:-Computers have evolved and they have changed the way the look and the way they function. Now days we have both desktop computers and portable computers commonly known as notebooks or laptops. New technologies have also emerged and birthed some new computer related gadgets like the IPod or galaxy tablet .These computers can be used by teachers to assign work to students and study groups in a classroom. Also teachers can use computers to illustrate visual related subjects which help students to learn easily. Modern computers come with installed applications which can help students study well.

2. Creating class websites and blogs:-It is very easy to create a website or blog using word press or any other content management software. Teachers can create class blogs where they post assignments. If the school has no website server to host these class blogs, the teacher can use free website hosting services like word.press.com or blogger.com. Via these platforms, the teacher will create a blog under a sub domain of that host. Students will find all academic assignments via that blog.

3. Use of mobile devices:-Teachers and students can use smart-phones for academic purposes in the classroom. Mobile learning is becoming so popular. It is similar to e-learning or long distance education. Though its based on mobile phones. M-Learning is convenient because it is accessible from anywhere. Mobile phones are very light yet they can also have the same application a simple PC can have, a student can access academic information like assignments via an educational mobile application.

4. Use of smart interactive whiteboards:-Modern smart white boards have a touch screen functionality, so the teacher can illustrate points using a projector, teachers can display visual images on these white boards which improves the learning process. Students will learn more easily with visual images. Also students can use a white board to draw, write or manipulate images. Smart whiteboards come in various sizes ,the wide ones are better, because they can show a larger image and can also be used by two students at a time.

5. Use of digital microphones in the classroom:-Big classrooms are characterized by endless noise, so teachers can resort to these wireless digital microphones. The microphone will transmit the voice to the loud speakers and every student will hear their teacher clearly. This helps the

teacher not to strain their voice while trying to explain points to their students. These digital microphones are not too expensive so even a small income generating school can manage to buy a wireless microphone for every classroom.

6. Use of online media:-Teachers and students can both use online streaming medias to learn in the classroom .With the aid of a projector, computer, internet and a whiteboard, a teacher displays a real-time example using sites like youtube.com. This website has videos which can be used for academic reference.

ADVANTAGES OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

1. Technology gives students the most current information available. Electronic textbooks or web-based content can be updated in real-time. classrooms can connect with other classrooms around the world to broaden their learning.

2. Students can practice collaboration skills by working in teams on projects using shared documents or conferencing technologies. This allows collaboration to happen outside of the classroom or between classrooms in different locations.

3. It is without question that students will need to know how to use technology to communicate and collaborate in their future careers. Almost all jobs use at least one form of technology, so students need to be comfortable using it.

4. Technology allows teachers to engage and motivate students in new ways, like taking students on a virtual field trip to other parts of the world.

5. Using technology can make classroom practice more interactive (if you have something like a smart board in your room) and can encourage kids to continue their learning at home (looking up something online from a lesson during the day). The teacher is able to provide links that may be useful for students.

6. Technology allows more communication for students and parents-kids who are too nervous to ask questions in class can email a teacher or ask for extra feedback on an essay.

7. Makes teaching efficient, in that there is less paper and organizing and collating of notes. This helps the school work towards environmental sustainability and consciousness. Less photocopies and more online/USB exchanges.

8. Teachers can design student-centered lessons by allowing students to take an active part in the lesson. Classroom time can be spent with students asking critical questions and engaging in creative problem-solving.

9. Teachers can use technology to meet the individual needs of students. Specific programs, apps or websites give teachers the options to offer content to students at different levels, allowing students to access material at their own pace.

DISADVANTAGES OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

1.While technology can be a great addition to the classroom, it also can be a source of frustration for both the teacher and the student. Unless the teacher is well trained in technology and can support the hardware in the classroom, a technology expert will be needed to troubleshoot problems. If schools cannot support the purchased technology, it essentially renders it useless in times of crisis or disrepair. Additionally, technology often needs frequent maintenance to keep it in good condition for use.

2.Connection problems, downloading issues, policing software and other difficulties can cause road blocks when implementing a lesson in the technology based classroom, teachers sometimes shy away from using it simply because of lack of time.

3.Technology does not have a place in classrooms where teachers have not been adequately trained in its implementation. While technology is fun and can add interest for students, it is not fully integrated until students are learning from technology and not just with technology.

4.A lot of families cannot afford to continue updating their technological purchases(computer, laptops).Providing the technology themselves can be costly. On the other hand, some schools receive such little funding that technology in the classroom is a non-essential luxury.

5.Technology can have unexpected breakdowns. Power failures, low batteries ,viruses and broken equipment are all excuses students love to use.

6.Most students engage in multiple forms of communication online,this has lead to a decrease in verbal and written literacy as students use short-hand expressions and do very little editing themselves.

CONCLUSION

The advantages discussed concerning computer technology in the classroom outweigh the disadvantages. Computer technology is a positive supplement to bridge the gap between education and the technological world in which we live. Effective teaching is possible while, various types of technology will be integrated. Computer- assisted technologies in schools offer students greater access to information, an eager motivation to learn, a jump-start on marketable job skills and an enhanced quality of class work.

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