

IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON EDUCATION

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Abstract

The prevalence of technology affects the society in so many positive and negative ways and that includes the education sector too. Technology has greatly affected and impacted the way things are presented and taught in the class room, this paper focuses to elaborate those impacts.

Technology has revolutionized the field of education. Students not only have computer and other gadgets to help in college work, they have easy access to research tools and other related materials, while teachers use technology to improve the impact of the lessons.

Key Words: Technology, Education, Teaching, Active learning

1.Introduction

Traditional education was centred on sources such as schools, colleges, teachers, books and articles. The modern education with the help of technology has become decentralized, now the student's society can access the information anywhere as per their requirement. Introduction of technology has also made learning to be more student centred, it encourages group learning & stimulated interaction.

Steve Johnson (2005) in his bestselling book "Everything bad is good for you" has posited that technology is making us more intelligent due to our means of obtaining, interpreting & processing information. Impact of technology in education is a debatable topic with both challenges and opportunities.

1.1 Impact of technology on learning

Technology plays the role of facilitator in educating the students and it has increased the accessibility. Illness, taking a full time job can no longer be a roadblock for education, because technology has extended the way people get educated. Students can pick and choose what medium they prefer to learn content and maximize the study time. Nowadays classrooms look and operate considerably different to the classrooms of a decade ago.

Today classroom houses various technology from IFPDs (Interactive flat panel displays to laptop & Smartphone's, all connected via Bluetooth and WIFI and also supported by many cloud based applications. Students have become more independent in the classroom because of the technological support. In the current scenario technology is not an added advantage it has become one of the basic requirement.

Technology influence students learning via

- Communication
- Convenience
- Control

Modern technology benefits the education only if they are used properly. Many parents and teachers deny the use of tablets and smart phones by the children's, but they have to accept the fact tablet or smart phone attracts the student's more than ordinary paper books. This extends their time and content in learning. It also encourages collaborative learning where students can share their views and also help their peers to solve subjected related problems using online interface.

1.2 Impact of technology on teaching:

Technology has simplified the process of teaching and it has reduced the burden of teachers in imparting knowledge to the students.

Technological devices like OHP, animated software's and other audio-visual aids have made presentation more interactive and lively in the class room. Information can be easily accessed via internet, it has become one of the effective tool for teachers to acquire knowledge, there are several websites that provides information on everything in the world.

1.2.1 Teacher to facilitator:

The smart learning methodology with technological development has changed the role of teacher to facilitator in learning process. In the current technological class room, teachers are not expected to teach instead, they are expected to help or facilitate student in learning. In the modern learning environment the word "learning" is becoming more popular than teaching.

Definitely technology has lot of positive effects on teaching, it has made teaching more enjoyable and easy, it also improves student's attention & attendance in the class.

1.3 Popular digital education tools

Advanced technological products continue to be introduced at a rapid pace; teachers are becoming more reliant on it to keep the learners engaged. A survey says 7 out of 10 teachers feel that educational technology makes teaching easier. Below are some of the useful latest tools for education.

1.3.1. Clickers:

It is a student response system which looks like a remote, it allows individual to instantly provide feedback to the instructor about their understanding in the class. The clickers are connected to USB port of laptops which then allows sending and receiving data.

1.3.2. Kindle:

It is a multipurpose tablet that connects to the Amazon market place .It allows the access to millions of eBooks, magazines & news papers. This simple device has features such as text to speech, flexible fonts which increases student's vocabulary.

1.3.3. Interactive white board:

The white board that allows teachers and students to collaborate and comment on the same surface so that the entire class can see it at the same time. It comes with digital pen, eraser & lesson planning software. This interactive white board gives teachers the ability to grab the attention of the students.

1.3.4. Coursera:

Andrew Ng & Daphne Koller, computer science professors in Stanford University found Coursera in 2012. The MOOC sites offers more than 600 online courses in business, computer science, mathematics etc, participants can watch video lectures & complete assignment, it also allows students to communicate on web forums and even arrange face to face study group through websites.

1.4 Negative impacts of technology on education:

Technology has merged into every level of our daily life, from morning till night bed time we use technology in one or the other way. Now a day's people have become more dependent on technology, there are some positive uses but the negative impact of the technology outnumbers the benefits.

1.3.1 Distraction:

Technology should be used to assist the classroom curriculum, but nowadays it is used as the primary source of learning, be it in classroom or home students often get involved in messaging, social media, gaming or even selfies when they actually wanted to research something for their homework or assignment. This type of distraction is not only sets work back by few minutes in time, but it also sets them back mentally, It can cause some serious damages over time.

1.3.2 Mental health:

Over use of technology will negatively impact the learning process of the students. Technology provides so many shortcuts to the students for sourcing the materials or completing the assignments, which has increased the plagiarism and hoaxing and it has completely diminished the analysis and critical thinking ability of the students.

1.3.3 Physical health:

All electronic devices emit radiation which is harmful for human body. Looking at a mobile phone or laptop screen can lead to headache, back pain and eyesight problem. Using earphone may give unique experience to the students but it will cause loss of hearing in older age. Technology extends the study time of the students but making them seated in one place for longer duration which will lead to obesity and stress.

Usage of these technological devices in class room and home foe educational support can cause severe damage to their physical health, which may restrain them from achieving their life goals.

1.3.4 Social health:

Face to Face interaction is the key to healthy social skill. Technology appears to create global networking bringing people together, but in reality it replaces real life communication and ends in social rejection and isolation. In interpersonal communication non verbal cues such as eye contact, tones of voice and facial expressions helps people to feel more connected to others, but in digital communication no such cues are available which reduces the personal connection, empathy and confidence in the student.

Conclusion:

Technology has impacted different facets of life and redefined living. When technology is combined with appropriate teaching methods, it will increase the academic achievement. Many complex and critical process can be carried out with ease and greater efficiency with the help of modern technology. It is completely up to the people using technology whether they use it to their benefits or let it distract them from their purpose.

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