The Impact of Technology in the Classroom

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

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The use of technology has impacted virtually every sphere of life, and educational sector is not an exception. Technology in the form of computers, smartphones, portable media players and digital media has infiltrated the current classrooms across different countries around the world (Bester & Brand, 2013). Students particularly those in high school and higher levels use technology to facilitate their learning. The adoption and formal acceptance of technology in classrooms have resulted in both negative and positive consequences. Most learners have increased engagement in learning environment because the use of technology facilitates their quick access to information. On the other hand, the use of technology in classrooms has negatively impacted learning among students. An analysis of the extent to which the use of technology has impacted learning in the classrooms is the subject discussed in this paper.

Causes

The rising use of technology in classrooms today has been caused by many factors such as increased level of innovation and the production of several cheap technological devices in the market. Increased availability of computer devices and smartphones has made it possible for students to intertwine almost about everything they do in classroom (Inan & Lowther, 2010). Instructors have played a part in encouraging students to use technology in the classroom to learn. Most instructors believe students who are aware of and embrace technology early enough become better prepared for their future. Learning institutions aware of the future that will be characterized by the increased use of technology have endeavored to develop learners' digital skills so the students make the most of it. As demonstrated by students in developed countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States, learners who use technology become

effective decision makers (Chod, Muck & Caliendo, 2015). In comparison students in developing countries such as Sudan and India often face difficulties in their future careers because of lack of exposure to the use of technology in their early life.

Another reason for adopting technology in classrooms is to provide an effective way to connect and engage students with different learning styles. Most of the learners are already tech-savvy by the time they begin their early childhood education. Therefore, instructors have no other way to get the message across to them than through the use of technology in classrooms (Lee, 2002). It provides a platform where learners can interact freely with their classmates and instructors. In this way, it encourages collaboration not only among individual learners but also with the outside world. The teachers in most cases mobilize students to use technology to get connected with other students in different parts of the world. For example, pen pals have been transformed through technology and are now called ePals referring to students who can connect and work with students living in other countries (Halili et al., 2017).

Consequences

Different studies suggest that the use of technology has led to the increased level of students' engagement in classrooms. The educators use technology to develop and present instruction and information that captivates learners (Chod, Muck & Caliendo, 2015). This brings about an enabling environment that is familiar to the learners hence the learning process becomes relevant to the students. Through the use of technology, students become active and increase their engagement in classrooms. Technology offers an important platform for communication among learners as it helps students to stay updated on the issues around them both in class and the outside world. According to Chod, Muck and Caliendo (2015), technology can be

implemented to take advantage of the social media that students primarily use to communicate, such as Facebook or Twitter. He argues that instructors can implement these technologies of social media in an attempt to enhance good practices such as contacts between the teachers and the students. This creates a friendlier conducive learning environment. Furthermore, when students have personal contact with their instructors, they can easily speak out there problems and receive immediate guidance and assistance. In addition to that, when students can get in touch with their instructors, they can easily get learning material because the instructor will easily share all materials available.

Technology use in classrooms is a good granary for researchers pursuing advanced level of studies. This is so because there is a wide range of reading materials found online on different websites. Lee (2002) carried out a quantitative study of 272 business students from the United Kingdom and four international universities in Europe on the use of social networks by students and how they perceive it. The research reveals that technology is uncommon to British high schoolers but is well-exploited by undergraduate and postgraduate students who use internet for their studies. This is the platform for connecting students who may exchange ideas in learning, or learn via Skype in another country. All these make learning more easy and enjoyable

Although to a great extent technology has a lot of advantages as up to date means of learning in most schools, it has several limitations that impact negatively its use. According to Hamilton and International Society for Technology in Education (2015), social media and information presented in various websites cannot always be reliable. The article explains that everyone knows or at least has been told by their professor, that Wikipedia should never be used as a legitimate source because its has a lot of inaccurate information and it is not the only such a site.

Course of Action

According to researchers, the use of technology to a large extent may not achieve effective student engagement if not used properly. This is because the use of technology by students lacks appropriate assessment criteria. This is unlike the traditional learning methodology where students' engagement is measured by observing students respond to questions and the number of hands raised in a classroom (Chod, Muck & Caliendo, 2015). The researchers suggest that learning using technology must be monitored to avoid cases where students may be distracted by other engagements that do not support the learning process. As such institutions such as libraries and schools must put in place appropriate control measures to enhance students' engagement.

Since many students are currently becoming a hard group to get engaged in learning techniques without the use of technology, most researchers suggest that technology should be adopted and attempts to prevent its use should be stopped (Halili et al., 2017). They claim by making technology as part of the learning process students' engagement in classrooms would increase significantly. However, the educators should first understand different learning strategies that should be analyzed to access its suitability to the student's learning process (Neil, 2009). The strategy adopted must comply with the needs and categories of students in question.

The educators must understand the learning styles of students so that they can implement appropriate teaching style with the use of technology in classrooms. For instance, kinesthetic learning style occurs when students conduct physical activities instead of watching demonstrations or listening to a lecture. Essentially, it implies that students require an active involvement with a particular activity while learning. The category of students with this type of

learning is expected to have difficulty learning from sedentary lectures (Chod, Muck & Caliendo, 2015). Mostly, they need to move around to integrate information into memory as kinesthetic students learn better while moving and touching things.

Conclusion

Technology is an essential tool if used well by students in their classrooms. It can be an important tool which can help them realize their potential early at a young age while they are still in high school or colleges. From this analysis, technology is seen to provide diverse material for learners which has enabled them to perfect different skills. We should not also forget that technology has also enabled distant learning via the means of medium like Skype.But there is always the other side of the coin and if misused, hi-tech can bring more harm then good.

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