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Educational implication of blogging as an effective tool of teaching and learning

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Abstract

In the modern era, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is becoming an important part of education. ICT is not only a medium of teaching and learning, but also a helpful tool for making assignment, data collection, communication and conducting research. ICT provides an pleasant environment for both the teacher and the learner. The use of different technologies of information and communication has been attracting the attention of teachers & researchers in recent years. Today we are using different modes of e-learning in researches, academics or in many other fields. Teaching and learning through blogging is also a new way of technology. Web-logs (blogs) represent a considerable and inexpensive medium to complement & popularize education efficiency to a large & specific public. This paper describes an investigation on the effectiveness of blogs in teaching & learning process. For this purpose investigator had used self made questionnaire and the result on the basis of interpretation shows that blogging effects both teaching & learning.

Keywords: ICT, E-learning, blogging, teaching and learning

1. Introduction

The Vein of Galen aneurysmal malformations (VGAM) is a rare form of embryonic arteriovenous shunt (AVS) in the choroidal fissure^[1]. It consists of anterior and posterior choroidal arteries and anterior cerebral which develops before the formation of the vein of Galen and straight sinus, and the pouch drains via falcine sinus to the superior sagittal sinus^[2].

1.1 Case report

In the modern era, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is becoming an important part of education. ICT is not only a medium of teaching and learning, but also a helpful tool for making assignment, data collection, communication and conducting research. ICT provides a pleasant environment for both the teacher and learner. The use of different technologies of information & communication has been attracting the attention of teachers & researchers in recent years. Globalization and technology have speed up the progress of the whole world.

India has learned lessons from the success of the e-way in the west & today the grin educational picture is being replaced by e-governances-classroom, e-tutorials. We are adopting e-learning in a big way. E-learning will soon become a great tool to increase qualifications and promotions in the job market. Blogging as a media of e-learning also plays an important role in teaching & learning. Teaching – Learning is the heart of education. The fulfillment of the aims & objectives of education depends on it. A blog (“web log”) is a type of website, usually maintained by an individual with regular entries of comments, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or videos. Most blogs are textual, although some blogs focus on arts, photography, videos, music & audios (casting). Blogs too effects teaching-learning process. Teaching with blogs provides the opportunity to engage students in literacy activities & to share their writing with *an authentic audience*. Darling-Hammond & Bransford (2005)^[6], from surveying the research findings, concluded that: There are systematic and principled aspects of effective teaching, and there is a base of verifiable evidence of knowledge that supports that work in the sense that it is like engineering or medicine. Gerbic & Stacey (2009)^[7] identify that it is one of the most significant challenge for blended learning environment, whether formal or informal.

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The investigator has reviewed and consulted researches related to the study, to have a broad and comprehensive understanding of work done in the field. The review has been presented as under:

Lin, C. (2008) ^[1] analyzed that the public has been widely using blogs for years. Issues are observed regarding blog user's profiles, readership, motivations, identity and privacy, and practices of control. Blogs have been utilized for educations and have been studied in pedagogies and other practical issues. In order to understand the current applications and difficulties of educational blogs, there is a need to learn from social issues of blogs in general because they have been widely used and studied for years. This paper shows the social issues from the public uses of blogs to explore blogs implications in the current educational blogs, especially for teacher educational programs.

Maha M.A. EL Tantawi (2008) ^[1] evaluates a blog used in a dental terminology course. The blog was established using free online software to provide more learning exercise for students & to collect feedback about course proceedings. The instructor posted exercises such as multiple choice & true/false questions & invited students to publish answers. Students were also encouraged to post comments about difficult parts of the course that needed clarification. Students contributed 149 comments, mostly as answer in response to thirteen posts of exercise over three months. All users of the blog who responded to a questionnaire considered it useful, & most of them expressed the opinion that blogs should be used in other courses. The main reason that students reported for not using the blog was lack of time. Statistically significant differences in examination performance existed between students who used the blog & those who did not. Based on these findings, the blog achieved its purposes, which were to enhance instructor communication with students & provide students with practice exercise to improve their understanding of dental terminology. Further research about the application of blogging & its potential to enhance dental education is needed.

Murray (2007) notified that a key feature of a "blog community" is the fact that all community members have easy access to each other blogs. This can be accomplished with model, a class wiki page, or the blog communities have page (which might also be called a blog magazine).

Blackston, B; Spiri, J & Naganuma, N. (2007) ^[2] concluded that using educational blog promote the improvement of online learning by creating a peer dialogue in the form of a reader response or a question & answer sequence. The present study explores interpersonal & group interactions using blogs. The finding shows that, as predicted by the theory of electronic closeness, the feeling of nearness conducted by students via blog post positively related to student's interpersonal online interaction.

Maged N Kamel Boulos, Inocencio Maramba & Steve Wheeler (2006) concluded that blogs & podcasts could offer a way to enhance students', clinicians' & patients' learning experiences & deepen levels of learners' engagement & collaboration within digital learning environments. Research should be conducted to determine the best ways to differentiate these tools into existing e-Learning programs for students, health professionals & patients, taking into account the different, but also overlapping, needs of these

three audience classes & the opportunities of virtual collaboration between them.

Tung Yin (2006) ^[4] declared that the blogs are like television: potentially a terrific education tool, but often just pedestrian entertainment. While legal bloggers can hope that their blogs are different, there are only a few notable examples of legal bloggers having leveraged their blogs for professional purposes. And the legal academy is still coming to grips with blogging: is it scholarship, public service or just a hobby? Yet legal blogs are having an important impact on the Supreme Court confirmation process. Supreme Court nominations are relatively events, even though 2005 was not one, but three nominees: John Roberts, Harriet Miers, & Samuel Alito. Although the nomination process occurs infrequently, the impact of legal blogging on the Supreme Court confirmation process may shed light on other areas where legal blogging will impact the legal community.

Margaret Maag (2005) ^[5] established that blogs are an emerging writing tool that are easy to use, are Internet-based & can enhance health professionals' writing, communication, collaboration, reading & information-gathering skills. Students from different disciplines, such as medicine, public health, business, library science, & journalism, garner knowledge from blogs as innovative educational tools. Healthcare professionals are expected to be competent in the use of information technology to be able to effectively communicate, manage information, diminish medical error, & support decision making. Thus, the use of blogs as an interactive & effective educational method has not been well referenced by educators.

2. Objectives and Methodology

2.1 Objectives

The objectives of the study are to: (i) To study the impact of blogs in teaching and learning. (ii) To study the use of blogs in teaching- learning process. (iii) To explore the satisfaction level of teachers regarding blogs. (iv) To know the awareness of teachers and students about blogs in teaching and learning. (v) To study and support blogging system.

2.2 Methodology

In this study survey method was used to meet the results.

2.3 Tool Used

Self-made questionnaire on blogging with the help of supervisor was used to know the effect of blogs in teaching & learning.

2.4 Sample & Data Collection

Sample was selected from 4 different institutions of Sirsa District. In this sample 100 students & 30 teachers were taken for the purpose of data collection.

3. Data Analysis & Interpretation

After collecting the data, the data was analyzed & interpreted accordingly. Interpretation of data was based on the objectives of the study. Percentage method was used for analysis and interpretation.

4. Results & Discussion

(Section-1 for students)

Table 1: Showing question wise percentage of respondents (students) on different options given in the questionnaire.

Questions		% of respondents		
1.	According to you which learning method is better?	Traditional method 22	Hybrid method 58	E-learning method 28
2.	Which learning method is followed in your institution?	Only E-learning 9	Only traditional 0	Hybrid method 91
3.	Do you use the electronic learning in educational program?	Yes 89		No 11
4.	For how long you are using online E-learning material for your educational purpose?	Less than 1 year 28	1 to 3 years 63	More than 3 years 9
5.	Do you use practical learning environment?	Yes 27		No 73
6.	Are you aware with the blogs?	Yes 71		No 29
7.	Do you feel that teaching through website blog is lacking with some features?	Yes 100		No 0
8.	Whether there is need of special training program to learn about blogs?	Yes 66		No 34
9.	What should be the source of training to learn about blogs?	In-house training 32	Out-sourcing 68	
10.	How many hours are needful in a week for blogs training?	Less than 10 hours 65	10 to 15 hours 18	More than 15 hours 19
11.	What is the level of acceptability of blogs in learning process?	Highly acceptable 30	Moderately acceptable 28	Not acceptable 8
12.	Do you want to promote your blogs for more effective learning?	Yes 79		No 21
13.	Do you feel blogging provides a lot of learning opportunities?	Yes 100		No 0
14.	Blogs help to organize the work in better way.	Yes 100		No 0

After the interpretation of first table, investigator finds that students were interested to learn through e-way, especially with blogs. Some students were lacking with the knowledge of blogs and were interested to have special training

programs for providing knowledge of blogs, so that they can learn in an effective way.

(Section-B for teachers)

Table 2: Showing question wise percentage of respondents (teachers) on different options given in the questionnaire.

Questions		% Of Respondents		
1.	Whether You Are Using Internet While Teaching?	Yes 30	No 0	
2.	How Your Institution Students Approach To Internet?	At Home 6	At Institution 9	Both 15
3.	How Your Students Feel Regarding Class Over Internet?	Yes 20	No 10	
4.	Whether You Face Any Technical Obstruction While Taking Class Over Internet?	Yes 12	No 8	Hardly 10
5.	Do You Have A Website For The Searching About Blogs?	Yes 13	No 17	
6.	Are You Using Blogs For Teaching?	Yes 13	No 17	
7.	If Not, Reasons For Not Using Blogs For Teaching?	Lack Of Knowledge 9	Lack Of Infrastructure 5	Any Other 3
8.	And If Yes, Whether Your Students Feel Comfortable With Your Blogs?	Yes 13	No 0	
9.	Whether Blogs Are Useful In Developing The Moral Value Of Students Towards Learning?	Yes 21	No 9	
10.	Do You Feel Blogging Is A Best Tool For Teaching-Learning Process?	Yes 30	No 0	
11.	You Feel That Blogs Are Enough In Good Teaching And Learning?	Yes 17	No 13	

In second table (where teachers were the respondents), investigator finds that only few teachers have knowledge of teaching through blogs and others were not using blogs while teaching. Reasons were found: lack of knowledge,

lack of infrastructure and some other reasons. In general, all teachers and students were in the favor of web-log and admitted that blogging effects teaching-learning process in a positive way.

5. Conclusion

Thus it is concluded that blogging is becoming an effective teaching-learning media in education. All the available data on the basis of the survey & available evidence of growing enrolment in blogs shows the increasing rate of blogging in teaching & learning. Some problems like infrastructure, lack of teaching skills, lack of knowledge to develop blogs etc. has affected the use of blogging. But through the survey in Sirsa District many positive results have been found about the use of blogging in teaching & learning to make them more effective.

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