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Use of Smart phone in classroom transaction

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Abstract

Use of Smart phone in teaching –learning process makes its classroom without the boundaries. Now teaching –learning is not confined within the four walls of classroom; it enables the students to learn anytime from anywhere. It would gradually help to shift the focus from teaching to self learning process. It enhances collaborative learning also. Use of Smart phone in classroom transaction removes the monotonousness of traditional classroom learning and makes classroom transaction more interactive.

This article discusses all the aspects of use of smart phone in classroom transaction. The main thrust area of this article is, how Smartphone can be used in teaching learning process for making classroom transaction more effective. This article also recommends some suggestive measures for effective use smart phone in classroom transaction.

Keywords: Smart phone, classroom transaction, teaching, learning

Introduction

With the rapid growth of information and communication technologies, a special importance is given to mobile learning (learning happens through some portable device such as smart phone, iPods, tablets etc.) The mobile learning is need of the hour. The mobile learning is a type of e-learning, a technology which offers learning through wireless hand held devices like smart phone and tablets (Georgievand Smrikarov, 2004).

Mobile learning through the use of wireless mobile technology allows anyone to access information and learning materials from anywhere and at any time. Mobile learning is important learning tool for people living in remote areas, where there are no schools, teachers or libraries. Mobile technology can be used to deliver instruction and information to these remote regions without having people leave there geographic areas.

Smart phone is a very essential technological gadget in our day to day life. In this day, we cannot think our life without smart phone. In earlier days mobile phones are restricted to only elite and upper middle class; but now it is on the reach of every one. It makes our life easy and comfortable.

A smart phone is a mobile phone with smart features such as high resolution touch screen display, Wi-Fi connectivity, web browsing capabilities, operating system, digital camera, QWERTY Keyboard, and the ability to run and download software application.

Smart phone works just like PC. The QWERTY keyboard present either physically or virtually present in smart phone making typing as easy as like PC.

The first, most successful smart phone was the Black Berry. Research In Motion was the first company to introduce different versions of the Smart phone to the public. More firm joined them, like Motorola, Sony & Nokia. Although the Research In Motion was the pioneer, it was Sony that first introduced the Smart phone closest to what we today. Sony was able to do so with the help of PALM Corporation, the firm that was known for making portable computers and PDAs. Sony PCS phone was developed with PALM software.

India ranks Third among the top countries for smart phone user with an estimated 117 million (2013) subscribers, China and the US. A report by IAMAI and KPMG projected that India will reach 236 million mobile internet users by 2016, and 314 million by 2017. There were approximately 82 million 3G subscribers in India by the end of 2015 and the number is projected to reach 284 million by the end of the year 2017.

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Meaning of M- learning

M- Learning stands for Mobile Learning is a subset of E-learning. M-learning means learning with the help of portable advanced technological gadgets such as smart phone, I pads, Tablets, Laptop and other portable devices. Simply it means, acquisition of any knowledge by using mobile technology at anytime, anywhere that results in alteration of behavior. M- learning is the ability to use portable devices for supporting teaching learning process and making it more interactive.

Definition of M- Learning

- “Any sort of learning that happens when the learner is not a fixed, predetermined location, or learning that happen when the learner takes advantages of the learning opportunities offered by mobile technologies”. (MOBI learn, 2003)
- According to Quinn (2000) “Mobile learning is learning through mobile computational devices”.
- Polsany (2003) defines “Mobile learning as a form of education whose site of production, circulation, and consumption is the network”.

Difference between E- learning And M-learning: E-learning is define with any sort of learning delivered by using electronic devices such as Computer via internet. Note that E- learning can also be distributed via company’s Extranet or Intranet, Whereas M-learning is a kind of E-learning delivered via portable devices such as smart phone or tablet.

E-learning can be real time or self-paced, (both synchronous and asynchronous) or tethered (connected to something). Whereas M- learning is often self-paced, un tethered and informal in its presentation. (Yousef & Hamideh)

Application of Smart phone in classroom Transaction:

Application of digital technologies in teaching –learning process has changed the traditional system of classroom interaction. Use of ICT tools in teaching- learning process has created a new dimension in education. Integration of Smart phone in the classroom transaction enhances the collaborative learning among the students.

In following ways smart phone can be used by the teacher for making their classroom transaction more effective & interactive.

- Teacher can share his/her number with his/her students & ask them to message if they have any confusion while reviewing the lesson. Teacher can clarify their confusion in the next class or can direct them to the reference sources. This will enable the teachers to see how well they understood the lesson and which areas of his /her lecture were harder to follow and this is very much essential for good teaching.
- Teacher can record their class lecture and share this with their students by using some smart apps such as Bluetooth, whatsapp, share it, etc. or upload it as a podcast. This can help the students while reviewing the lesson and also helpful for those who were not present in the class. (Tejwani & Thomas,2013) ^[3]
- Teacher can make group in whatsapp with their students and can share various information regarding class topic.

- Teacher can use various web.2.0 tools such as Google Earth, Google Maps, I Google, Skype etc. for making their classroom transaction more effective. Teachers in all content areas can use Google Earth for numerous interactive lessons. Google Maps provides standard map direction as well as real time traffic information in major cities.
- Students can be asked to browse on some topic which have just discussed on the class by using internet apps present on their smart phone. This will enable the teacher to see how well they can find out reference on the discussed topic. (Tejwani & Thomas, 2013) ^[3]
- There are so many educational apps available in a wide range of subject for all kinds of learners. Teacher can ask their students to visit such site by using mobile internet.
- Guest lecturers who do not have the ability to come to the classroom for delivering their lecture can use Skype to deliver their lecture. (Skype allow high quality audio & video- conferencing).
- Teachers can use video –conferencing by using Skype to deliver lecture with their students while being away from the classroom.

Advantages

- Allow access to internet for referencing by using 3G/4G network.
- Smart Phones are cheaper than PC & laptop and allow easy and fast accessing of information.
- Use of Smart phone in Classroom transaction transfers the learning process teacher –centric to student/ learner centric.
- Learning is flexible not fixed, students need not to present in classroom. With M- learning Students can learn from anywhere at any time as long as there is internet connectivity.
- Learning is more efficient and effective.
- Enhances collaborative learning.
- Students can access to E-books and download PDF, doc. File on their smart phone.
- Students can record their class lecture for reviewing purpose.
- Students can check their E-mail.
- Allow students to discuss with their teachers and mates if they have any confusion by using apps like whatsapp, messenger, Hike and Imo etc.
- Share information through Bluetooth or Share it.
- Photographing text/ white board for future review.
- There are so many educational apps available in a wide range of subjects for all kinds of learners. Smart phones allow students to access such educational apps.
- Students can take part in video-conferencing.
- Helps in personality development.

Barriers to use Mobile/Smart phone in class room transaction

Some potentials barriers which hinder the use of Smart phone in classroom transaction are:

- Small screen size with small multifunction keypad.
- Limited memory size.
- Most Smart phones can have battery life about two to four hours. Once the power runs out, it has to be recharged, making it immobile.

- Lower display resolution.
- Higher risk of data storage and transaction errors.
- Need to connect with PC for printing.
- Limited bandwidth.
- Loss of data may occur due to shorter battery life.
- Device may become outdated quickly and students have to keep combating obsolescence.

Recommendation for Effective use of Smart phone in classroom transaction

- Insertion of ICT based curriculum and digital content to support it.
- Institution should also made some necessary development for the use of digital technology in classroom.
- Institution should arrange some training programmes on digital technologies for their teachers to update their knowledge and teaching competencies.
- Institution should arrange some workshop or seminar on use of digital technologies as educational tools for upgrading their teacher's competencies.
- Teacher should acquire the knowledge and skills to use the modern technological in teaching learning process.
- Teacher should be aware about the benefits of M-learning and blended learning in academic exploration.

Conclusion

Integration of Smartphone in teaching learning process have generated a new era in education. It makes teaching learning process more interactive and effective. It can help to bring quality education to everyone from everywhere. Smart phone enables teachers and students to connect from around the globe sharing their knowledge and experiences. Use of smart phone in teaching process have played a significant role in changing traditional system of teaching learning to modern technology based learning which helps in collaborative learning and hence it is the high time for the teachers to change their mindset and make them aware about all technological gadgets beneficial for classroom transaction for their academic up gradation.

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