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Digitalization: An innovative perspective in education

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Abstract

Education is one of the significant sectors to show revolutionary changes in recent times. Digital education is the panacea for this curse of education all over the globe. It is particular a blessing for developing countries which chronically suffer from ailments of access and affordability. With wise coverage over various means of communication it becomes a natural choice to learn even for those the hinterlands. Innovation and Technology have been pre dominant in every sector of the economy but to adapt to change of fear to become obsolete. In this scenario of digitalization, it is a must for the education sector to also adapt to a dynamic environment as it allows it to keep pace with a competitive world. The onset of the digital India vision is having a profound effect our lives. While digitalization is ushering in a new era of transparency, efficiency and accountability, its proliferation in the field of education has brought about disruptive changes with a potential to radically alter the conventional landscape.

Keywords: Digital Education, Digital Learning, Innovation, Technology.

Introduction

Innovation and technology have been predominant in every sector in India with each undergoing vast changes in the past few years. While digitalization is ushering in a new era of transparency, efficiency and accountability, its proliferation in the field of education has brought about disruptive changes with a potential to radically alter the conventional landscape. The traditional education system was based on the concept of “knowledge transfer”- the age old guru shishya parampara- which established a clear teacher taught relationship. However, the digital media and the internet have ushered in a democracy of knowledge, where education has become a collaborative, self-driven enterprise. Today there are tools available to transform learning from an academic exercise to an engaging experience in imaginative and experiential learning.

Digital Technology

It is a platform that includes electronic gadget, electronic tools, and resources that are used to produce data, store them and processes it such as social media, multimedia application, online games, interoperable systems, mobile devices and cloud computing. In this scenario of digitalization, it is a must for the education sector to also adapt to a dynamic environment as it to keep pace with a competitive world.

Digital Education

Digital Education means digital learning. It is a type of learning that is supported by digital technology or by instructional practice that makes effective use of digital technology. Digital learning occurs all learning areas and domains. Digital education gives win-win opportunities for all; on one side schools and colleges and other institutions find rapid rise in enrolments because of digital education, while on the other side students view this as a flexible and alternate option allowing them to study as per their convenient time and pace. Digitalization

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is the integration of digital technologies into everyday life by the digitalization of everything that can be digitized. The literal meaning of digitalization gives an apparent idea of development and technology dependent world. Over the last few years digital education in India is evolving at faster pace. It is changing the way students learn different concepts and theories in schools and colleges. The traditional chalk and talk method in schools and colleges has been slowly changing with more interactive teaching methods as schools and colleges are increasingly adopting digital solutions. Digital education/learning is a medium that includes the combination of modern technology and electronic gadgets.

Factors that affect Digital Education

- **Personalized and adaptive learning**

Learning platforms, software and digital devices are together creating countless new ways to modify education. This way, the academic potential, strengths, weaknesses, aptitude and learning pace of every single student is created to. Precise, mobile and reliable applications are being created to teach students, help them practice their learning, take assignments and manage their schedules. Schools are providing their with digital devices like desktop computers, laptops and tablets. These devices are aiding them in the teaching process while also helping them understand how students learn and how to enhance their learning process.

- **Two-way conversations in E-Learning**

In the traditional classroom seating scenario, students are unable to get the individual attention they need due to time constraints. In contrast, the one to one context to teach in digital medium, currently students to learn through videos and chat with an expert. The upcoming 'Learning Management System' will continue the two-way communication model between students and experts. More importantly, it will let students track their coursework progress; identify improvement areas and offers ways to make the most of them.

- **Mobile-based learning**

Over the past few years, mobile learning has picked up by the populace who has gradually assimilated it in their lives. It has offered students the flexibility to access educational content like desktops, laptops tablets and smart phones. The smart phones users' base in India continues to increase, in both urban and rural areas. Most educational content, including even online courses, will be optimized entirely for mobile devices.

- **Video based learning**

Video learning has always appealed to students since it closely mirrors the traditional classroom teaching styles. Earlier, students watched video lectures as a form of homework and then discussed them during the next class. Over time, this habit brought about a remarkable improvement in their performance, with a noticeable improvement in grades. Video lectures allowed students to learn subject's syllabi at their own pace and dedicate time spent in class towards interactions. This will continue to be a trend in the future where students will have access to rich and interactive content that will be useful for both formal training as well as performance enhancement.

- **Open educational resources**

Open digital education resources have commonly been used in distance learning courses. They consist of freely accessible media for learning, teaching and research purposes. They are licensed to be revised and disseminated freely by teacher among students. Open educational resources also facilitate the creation of a flexible environment where teacher can customize educational content for individual sessions or classroom settings.

- **Use of Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) for learning**

Their advent in e-learning has massively impacted the efficiency with which it is offered to students and the way it assesses their performance. VR allows students using e-learning platforms on mobile devices to directly interact with study material. This keeps their engagement levels high and motivates them to learn more and better. On the other hand, AR facilitates teachers and trainers in performing tasks; they previously haven't or cannot, in a safe environment. Together they both of them are engaging students in ways like never before and are poised to become a lot more widespread in their usage and impact in the future.

Why digitalization is must for Education Sectors?

- **For customization**

The western education system in India came into being with the British Raj. However, while the British have moved and evolved ways of learning, the Indian education system still lags behind. Teaching is still conducted in archaic classrooms with rigid syllabi dominating the curriculum. But digitalization offers fluidity to the Indian education sector by being a supplementary form of the system as it is available to students as per their need.

- **Adapt to technology**

As the world is moving towards digitalization India has no option but to keep pace with it. We know that the traditional education system in India is here to stay for the long haul and that no one can take away that learning experience. But our education system needs to be dynamic and needs to adapt to technology. There is no need to fear a subject like math's as there are fun ways to learn it. Today there are apps to learn languages or any other subjects.

- **Practical Approach**

Digitalization brings in a more practical approach of tracking students' performance. One can easily evaluate a child's progress by going through his exam scores, attendance, assignments etc. For instance, one has a choice to choose a tutor, schedule class as per one's time availability and study offline or online as per their convenience.

- **Time Saver**

In today's world where time is money, digitalization is a big time saver. Students have to commute for hours to reach their educational institutes. In this scenario a digital course comes as a rescuer to students from the remotest parts of the country. One just needs to log into a website to learn a subject rather than spend long hours in the commute from one spot to another.

- **Transparency**

Digitalization offers a safe mode of learning which is transparent and accountable. Parents can keep a track of their ward's progress by logging into the website. It also offers them a platform to air their views and suggestions which can be used to improve the system, unlike the traditional method where one has to be quiet fearing from the teachers. Digitalization helps in creating a solid partnership between parents and teachers with one goal in mind –better learning for students.

- **Rapidly increasing information sharing**

In recent years, the shift from print to digital has impacted how we learn. Digital learning helps the students to access more and more information but also ensuring that the information is suited to their personal needs. The opportunity to help every students learn at the best pace and path for them is the most important benefit of digital learning. Digital learning tools and technology enables educators/ students to rapidly share information with other educators in real time. The explosion of free and open content and tools has created an environment of sharing economy.

- **Makes students smarter**

Learning tools and technology enables students to develop effective self –directed learning skills. They are able to identify what they need to learn, find and use online resources, apply the information on the problem at hand, and even evaluate resultant feedback. This increases their efficiency and productivity. In addition to engaging students, digital learning tools and technology sharpen critical thinking skills, which are the basis for the development of analytic reasoning.

- **Self motivation and more accountable**

Students using digital learning tools and technology become more engaged in the process and more interested in growing their knowledge base, they may not even realize that they are actively learning since they are learning through engaging methods such as peer education, teamwork, problem-solving, reverse teaching, concept maps. Since digital learning is far more interactive and memorable than voluminous textbooks or one-sided lectures, they provide better context, a greater sense of perspective, and more engaging activities than traditional education methods.

- **Involvement of educators and parents to a deeper extent**

Dynamic grouping, workshops, and project-based learning can add lots of collaborative learning to the already present education model. Educators can also join online professional learning communities to ask questions and share tips and stay connected with a global educators' community. They can keep themselves updated with the most relevant content for the or curriculum using such learning tools and technology. Apart from educators, parents can use interactive activities to encourage their child's interest in learning. Parents can also explore online learning activities with their child which can serve as an extension to what they are learning in their classrooms.

- **Student's employability increases**

Digital learning solutions based on problem based learning emphasizes on learning methods that are constructive, collaborative and calls the student's attention to a real – world approach to learning. For this purpose, newer methods of learning and education need to be incorporated into the school curriculums, starting right from elementary schools. Digital learning tools and technology prepares students for higher education and modern careers by helping them acquire skills including problem-solving, familiarity with emerging technologies and self motivation.

- **Replaced traditional educational methods**

Traditional lectures may still exist along with the new –age learning tools and technology, but the lecture materials should be provided as a supplement to classroom activities and moved online for students to reference outside of the classroom. Students often have the option to pace their learning and even study ahead with a digital learning tool. Digital learning inspires creativity and lets children feel a sense of accomplishment that encourages further learning. Digital learning tools and technology fill the gaps where traditional classroom teaching falls behind. Digital learning provides an effective way to cut costs, maximize resources and heighten both reach and impact for students and educators alike.

Conclusion

Digitalization in education has totally changed the learning and also the teaching process to a very great extent. Technology has made imparting education stress free for both students and educators. The true revolution in education can only be achieved via digitalization of education so that students can learn at their own speed both within and outside the classroom. Teaching in the digital age is increasingly challenging. The teacher not only has to acquaint and harness modern aids, but also has to infuse age old and time tested virtues of social, physical and mental well-being in an increasingly cluttered and a highly competitive environment.

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