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Impact of digital technology on higher education

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Abstract

Traditionally education is based on sources such as schools, teachers and print media. The learners receive knowledge with the help of schools, teachers, libraries etc. At present time, education is given the highest priority and brainpower is becoming the most valuable asset of an organization. Advances in digital technology have opened up many avenues of learning. With the help of digital technology learners can receive knowledge from anywhere. So, the digital technology has various impacts on higher education. This paper reflects about various impacts of digital technology on higher education in general.

Keywords: Digital Technology, Higher Education.

Introduction

Technology has revolutionized the college campus, but as with most things in life, technology adoption isn't a one size fits all affairs. For universities and other higher learning institutions, leveraging the right kind of technology will help students get the most out of every learning opportunity, both in and out of the classroom. Every day, we see more and more higher education institutions both aligning themselves with this latest trend of technology adoption and maximizing the impact of the teaching that they deliver.

Today, students aren't restricted by the four walls of their classrooms. Online learning is quickly becoming the norm. Professors are now collaborating across universities via enhanced educational technologies. New high growth technologies have entered the online education marketplace, making education even more interactive.

Higher education is becoming more robust, and is now, even more than before, targeted towards professional development.

What is Digital Technology?

By digital technology we mean the use of computer and technology assisted strategies to support learning within schools and colleges. Approaches in this area vary widely, but generally involve:

- Technology for students, where learners use programmes or applications designed for problem solving or open-ended learning; or
- Technology for teachers, such as interactive whiteboards or learning platforms.

In recent years reference to 'digital technology in the classroom' (DTC) can be taken to mean digital processing systems that encourage active learning, knowledge construction, inquiry, and exploration on the part of the learners, and which allow for remote communication as well as data sharing to take place between teachers and/or learners in different physical classroom locations. This is an expanded notion of technologies that recognizes their development from mere information delivery systems and also clarifies their role in classrooms in contrast to their wider use across schools and learning centre's.

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What is Higher Education?

Higher education, any of various types of education given in postsecondary institutions of learning and usually affording, at the end of a course of study, a named degree, diploma, or certificate of higher studies. Higher-educational institutions include not only universities and colleges but also various professional schools that provide preparation in such fields as law, theology, medicine, business, music, and art. Higher education also includes teacher-training schools, junior colleges, and institutes of technology. The basic entrance requirement for most higher-educational institutions is the completion of secondary education, and the usual entrance age is about 18 years.

Impact of Digital Technology on Higher Education

Digital technology affects in all aspects of human activity, and education is not exception, so its impact on education and training is inevitable. A digitally literate citizen will be able to learn and take responsibility for their learning so this results in a higher demand for education and feel of the needs for more equipment and tools. So, the digital technology has various impacts on higher education. The impacts of digital technology are as given below:

Access to a huge informational background

Internet can be used as an effective tool for gaining knowledge. Web users need only to enter specific information they want to find into search engines that will prompt them to millions of search results. There are several informative websites and web directories that offer information on a variety of topics. Students can use the Internet to get all the additional information they need to expand their knowledge base. They can take the knowledge from anywhere at any time with the help of internet. A great example of an efficient use of World Wide Web for learning is academic assistance that is currently being delivered worldwide. You can easily get custom writing help from CustomWriting.com and lots of other websites if struggling with homework.

Absence of geographical and political boundaries in social networks

Citizens of different countries in the virtual world share their opinions, thoughts and communicate without any limits now days. They can share their thoughts and questions related to problems to virtual friend, which they cannot be share with his family or offline friends. In a broader spectrum, users of these social networks can exchange opinions about the programs and policies of their own government. For example, one of the reasons that influenced the high level of public and political participation in recent uprisings and revolutions was a presence of users in the virtual world and calls for struggle against dictatorial governments.

The Internet gradually becomes one of the most important sources of information and a very convenient tool for communication. Thanks to the Internet, anyone can transfer information directly over computer networks at a distance, as well as for educational, scientific and management needs. In future, all educational institutions will unite their computers in a single network with the possibility of access to the Internet. Effects of technology to students are obvious. The learning process became easier, as well as more accessible to population of developing countries. No

matter what information you need, on the Internet you will certainly find it.

High degree of visibility

The computer helps teacher to quickly combine a variety of tools that contribute to a deeper and more informed assimilation of the studied material, saves the lesson time, and allows organizing the learning process by individual programs. For example, training computer programs realize a use of technology in education. They allow to give illustrations of the most important concepts of objects at a level providing qualitative advantages in comparison with traditional methods of studying. They are based on a significant increase in visibility, activation of cognitive activity of the student, a combination of mechanisms of verbal-logical and imaginative thinking. Traditional requirements for teaching knowledge (remember, be able to reproduce) are gradually transformed into requirements for basic information skills such as knowledge search (be able to find and solve any tasks).

Distance Education

Digital Technology facilitates the access to information and opens up opportunities for the variability of learning activities. Its individualization and differentiation, let organize the interaction of all subjects of education in a new way, to build an educational system in which the student would be an active and equal participant in educational process. Also, the use of technologies can replace many traditional teaching aids. Such a replacement is very effective, as it stimulates students to keep interest in the subject, creating an information environment.

Students are able to check themselves

Modern multimedia computer programs allow students to visualize the result of their actions. We should not forget about the importance of technology in education. The use of computers makes the lesson attractive and truly modern. During this occasion an individualization of the training appears, control and summarizing are provided exactly in time and students have no need in looking for the answers by themselves.

Students Can Learn at Their Own Pace

No two students are alike, there are individual differences. Every student learns at his or her own pace. There are many ways that integrating technology into the classroom can help students learn at a rate that is comfortable to them, and that allows them to retain information. For example, in-classroom lessons or activities on laptops or tablets allow students to read directions, process information and complete work at their own pace. This also helps free up the teacher's time so they can give students who may need extra guidance or assistance the attention they require.

Additional Resources for Students

Digital technology provides various knowledge resources for students and teachers. Educational apps, search engines, videos, portable technologies and interactive activities provide students with a nearly endless supply of information and resources. Use of the educational technologies including, but not limited to, the tools below support 24/7 learning

- Online lesson plans

- Educational apps
- Interactive games
- Online video and graphics
- Accessing books and articles via tablets and e-readers

Conclusion

Digital technology is seen as an important tool in today's world where most of the affairs such as business, education and networking are done using technological devices. Digital technology plays important role in higher education. It not only effects the students but also the teachers and it effects the all aspects of lives. Technology has greatly affected and impacted the way things are presented and taught in the classroom. Technology has had a large impact on higher education. Digital technology helps in distance education, students can learn at their own pace and it provides a huge information background etc.

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