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Digitalization of higher education

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Abstract

Digital technology in India has been evolving over the last few years, changing the way students learn concepts in school. The traditional chalk and talk method has paved the way for more interactive teaching methods as schools are increasingly adopting digital solutions to keep themselves abreast with the technological changes. As the current generation of students is well-versed with laptops, i-pads, and smartphones, these innovative methods of teaching guarantee more participation from students. To cater to the school students' needs, education providers such as Educomp, Tata Class Edge, Pearson, and Teach Next have been coming up with interactive software to aid teachers in classroom teaching. Previously, teachers used to teach in rigid, formal and stereo-typed ways. Education was then conceived as the process of transmitting knowledge and ideas. Student used to get by heart whatever was given by the teacher or textbook. They often could not understand what was taught and were expected to reproduce at the time of examination. Pupils were silent audience and could not make any logical queries or independent thinking of their own. Today, the student is not considered as an empty vessel to be filled in by facts and figures. They are now expected to use so many media and materials and to get learning experience from all sides. Education is regarded as a process of interaction and interpersonal communication. The modern teacher has to help, to guide and facilitate the learner's development. The teacher has to inspire and motivate the young learners and assist the adult learners in their quest for knowledge and skills. However, usage of digital technologies in institutes of higher education is still in its nascent stages and efforts are being made to fine-tune these technologies to adapt to the needs of University students. In short, content development is yet to mature in colleges and universities across India.

Keywords: Digitalisation, Digitalization of higher education

Introduction

In the modern era, the changing trend in the teaching-learning process in our education system has helped greatly in the development of a fruitful and productive personality. 'Digitalization' of education has blurred the borders that were previously defined by students and teachers being present on the same location at the same time.

Now, is the phase of radical development, where 'Technology' has taken over in every field? Moreover today's generation does not limit itself in the traditional system of education in the four walls; rather their vast curiosity for learning new things and innovations demands the need of digitalization in education

Digitalization-the key word

It is the integration of digital technologies in everyday life, businesses and education industry. It helps to grasp knowledge, via different techniques and methods, making the concepts clearer, enjoyable, interesting and understandable.

Digitalization has helped greatly in saving our resources like trees i.e. to cut them to make paper.

Over the last decade, distance and online learning is becoming popular in India. Online

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learning courses are of the rise and have been facilitated by the increase in digital technology. Via internet numbers of students are able to get coaching online at the same time. It provides an opportunity for students and faculty to attend or conduct a session from an off-site location, making the world seem smaller and more accessible.

Online courses by Aakash tutorials, Byju's, MOOC's have brought together successfully children from all over the world. There is no caste and class bar while imparting online education. Experts give their valuable lessons and notes are provided through videos, e- textbooks, power point presentations, video conferencing, hyperlinks, live tutorials, demo-videos in all the subjects.

Digitalization has made education process stress free for both teacher and taught, where classroom learning has become more broad and lively. It helps the pupils to learn at their own pace inside and outside.

Communicating the content through fluid illustrations, animations and text are able to meet the challenges that the traditional manuals could never do.

Apple, hp, Microsoft, etc are contributing at great extent in the digitalization of education by iPods, tablets, notebooks, ipads etc.

A number of courses related to digitalization and electronic publishing are there in general- example-: digital text, image and video editing, web site, and server managements & text encodings and style sheet technologies are taught at different education levels.

Moreover, in India, more than lakhs of schools, colleges, universities have adopted the system of online admissions, fee depositing, and registrations for courses. All the institutions have adopted the hassle-free computerized method of maintaining the records.

Educomp solutions- take smart class is one of the first Indian companies in this space to start digital programming in schools, and mapped curriculum, multimedia and 3D content.

Coursera is an educational technology company which works with universities to make some of the courses available.

Moreover, online shopping sites like Amazon, provides facilities to the students by fetching online books for them and free delivery at their door steps.

But apart from providing so many advantages and benefits in the education system, there are still many issues and challenges to be faced and overcome. Let's know quite a few of them.

Ignoring the traditional methodology of teaching-learning where only experienced teachers were teaching.

Quality of education has come down. The material is though available, but pupils cannot describe it thoroughly.

Major challenge is proper and complete training is required to be able to teach the students with competency. A teacher has to master with the content and strategy.

Number of times where content is large, only practical aspect is explained and theory is ignored.

Decent language of the students has transformed to digital and slang language. Use of the mother tongue is now vanishing.

Even in film industries where songs have a deep meaning, now remixes have started over which have no meaning.

Conclusion

Though Digitalization in Education has formed its roots in our system, but still the old classroom learning system should not and cannot be diminished.

To have a better future for the youth, we need to combine both the education systems and walk hand-in-hand, acting as support system to the EDUCATION. We should define it as "Traditional teachings with modern technologies...."

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