
The Role Of Technology In The Educational Process

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Abstract: *This article presents that technology is central to many sectors of society and its integration into the education process has great promise for student learning. With technology, one can expect increased efficiency and effectiveness on both the part of teachers and students. Technology can also prompt pedagogical change and address issues that affect learning, teaching and social organization. Technology can therefore be seen as both a tool and a catalyst for change. Students should embrace technology for them to benefit and teachers should be open to introducing technology into the classroom to improve and innovate their teaching practice.*

Key words: *technology, issue, innovate, pedagogical beliefs, improve, contextual approach.*

Technology is being integrated into education, its use for teaching and learning still remains a challenge. Despite the fact that many schools today are privileged to have ready access to technology, trained teachers, and a favorable policy environment, the use of technology in the classroom is still low. Some attribute low levels of technology use in education to the pedagogical beliefs of teachers. With that said, the potential of technology to enhance learning cannot be overemphasized. The use of technology is something that started a long time ago for students with special needs. For example, brail machines have been utilized for the visually impaired. In addition, special needs programs that help children with autism use technology to enhance learning. By integrating technology into education, educators aim to engender pedagogical change and address fundamental issues that affect learners with special needs. Technology can therefore be seen as both a tool and a catalyst for change.

Today, technologies used to improve and facilitate learning can be found everywhere. Leaving other contextual factors to the side – such as unequal

access to technological innovations and connected technologies across schools and districts – we can only say that we have embraced technology in education when it is used for both teaching and learning. With the incorporation of technology into schools, the main purpose is to change how teachers and students gather, access, analyse, present and transmit information. This can democratize information in classrooms as well as help differentiate instruction, particularly for students with special needs.

Assistive technology for students with special needs

Assistive technology can be defined as an item, piece of equipment or product system that can be used to maintain, increase or improve functional capabilities for any person with a special need. Thus, the incorporation of educational technology can also provide benefits to students with disabilities who may be in a better position to interact with the lesson through technology. Moreover, technology can place teachers in a better position to customize learning for students with special needs.

What is the relationship between technology in education and pedagogy?

Research has illustrated that many educators have had a hard time integrating technology into education. This may be because many educators have yet to explore the relationship between technology and pedagogy. Doing so could play a huge part in encouraging critical thinking by teachers as they attempt to integrate technology into education.

At the same time, for technology to work effectively, it should only be incorporated in classroom if it is appropriate for a given instructional task. Also, technology can only be an effective teaching tool if teachers participate in decisions to adopt technology. This is because teachers have the responsibility of facilitating instruction and incorporating technology at the classroom level, yet many school administrators tend to make decisions related to technology adoption/training without consulting teachers.

How Technology can be used to Improve Learning

The following are ways that technology could be better leveraged to improve learning:

- With the widespread availability of student databases that are able to track individual progress, teachers are encouraged to identify learning objectives and differentiate instruction based on the needs of their students.
- Whenever teachers attempt to present instruction using technology, they should do so using a channel that is relevant to the objectives, the learning style, mode and the technology selected.
- When evaluating technology-based instruction, there needs to be appropriate evaluation techniques that are in line with the methods of instruction, objectives and the technology.
- Teachers can design follow-up activities when using technology to evaluate students' learning and the role technology played in that process.

In today's time, technology has become a part and parcel of our lives. From smart TV, washing machines, laptops to smartphones, we are accustomed to all types of gadgets powered by technology.

New technologies roll out in the market regularly and make our lives better with every passing day. Technology has its application in every field and especially in the education sector. It is being exploited in classrooms to make learning fun by making the classrooms interactive. Advanced technologies make education easier, joyful and accessible.

Educational technology can be classified as:

- Technology as a tutor
- Technology as a Teaching tool
- Technology as a learning tool

Need of technology in classrooms

- It is the best way to understand the diversity in learning styles.

- It encourages collaboration and enables classmates to interact more with each other.
- Technologies help teachers to prepare their students to face the real world.
- It enables students to access up-to-date information in a quicker and easier way.
- Classroom technology has transformed teachers into encouragers, advisers and coaches.
- Students can get benefits of digital textbooks that are always updated, helpful, creative and cheaper.

Advantages of technology in the education process

- Easy access to learning material: Students can easily find e-books, revision material, sample papers and previous year question papers on the internet that can be used to improve their knowledge base.
- Learning without hindrance: Now, students can learn anywhere and anytime through digital learning modes. They can learn at home or at any place they wish to. They do not require special classrooms or study room. The study material is just a click away.
- Sharing of knowledge: Distance is no more a barrier now. Due to cutting-edge technologies, students from all over the world can come together at one platform and share their experience as well as knowledge.
- Learning Aids: The use of audio and visual materials make it easy for the student to grab theoretical concepts along with understanding the practical aspects. Apart from this, new technology has made it easier for disabled students to gain knowledge. They can use computers, visual material and many technological tools to learn despite their disability. There are arrays of effective and robust learning tools for differently-abled students.
- Distance learning: Today, there are no difficulties in a student's life that can refrain them from learning. Now, it is possible to receive education as per one's

schedule and convenience. In this way, even working professionals can receive education and enhance their skills.

To sum up, with the advent of technology, there has been a paradigm shift in the education sector. The traditional blackboard has been replaced by an interactive whiteboard. By exploiting technology, students can connect with different people across the globe and get career opportunities beyond boundaries. Learning has become effective with technology. When carefully designed and thoughtfully applied, technology can accelerate, amplify, and expand the impact of effective teaching practices. However, to be transformative, educators need to have the knowledge and skills to take full advantage of technology-rich learning environments . In addition, the roles of PK–12 classroom teachers and postsecondary instructors, librarians, families, and learners all will need to shift as technology enables new types of learning experiences.

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