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Trends and Issues in Educational Technology

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Trends and Issues in Educational Technology

There have been several advancements in educational technology. Issues and trends in educational technology are all about the design and development in innovative ways. Here, the main focus is to transform the education sector given the advancement in technologies. This mostly involves online educational materials that include videos, interactive data visualizations, and high-resolution color images. Also, provisions of access to high standard student work are some of the concerns of educational technologies. In this case, educationists submit course materials in the relevant online platform. Therefore, there have been dramatic trends in educational technology that include; collaborative learning, management of data and analytics, and learning outside the classroom.

Learning Outside the Classroom Environment

Learning outside the classroom is the most current trend in educational technology. This particularly emerged during the onset of covid19 to create social distancing. According to Valverde-Berrocoso et al. (2020), over 1.5 billion students were affected by the closure of classrooms, thus encouraging e-learning. However, this only favored students who could access mobile-based devices to enhance their learning outside the classroom. Consequently, internet connection and power stability are some of the major requirements with this current trend. Learning outside the classroom is highly embraced in most countries since students can learn at their own pace and time. Valverde-Berrocoso et al. (2020) noted that 84% of Americans and 66% of Latin Americans had access to the internet, enhancing e-learning. However, the least developed countries have the least access to the internet and power, hindering e-learning activities. The current pandemic has, in turn, fostered the betterment of internet access and power

to continue with the learning activities irrespective of the closure of classrooms. Given the above efforts, the future of e-learning continues to expand, promoting equality with education in digital competence.

Additionally, learning outside the classroom not only assists in covering time lost during the closure of classrooms but is also a tool for engaging students. Students mostly research various education platforms to gain more insights after being lectured via zoom. Besides, eBooks are currently with varied features that promote good experience by learners. For instance, the availability of annotation tools, bookmarks, hyperlinks, dictionaries, and search features simply research activities by learners. In regards to this, institutions are highly encouraged to adopt learning outside classrooms due to its vast benefits. Learning outside the classroom, particularly the internet-based one carter for students' basic needs. Here, students who tend to grasp less in the classroom can get more content from the internet than when learning is purely done in the classroom. Also, lectures can be taken a couple of times since the materials are already available. Unlike classroom-based learning, outside classrooms are readily available irrespective of not attending all lectures. Therefore, learning outside the classroom is one of the trends and issues in educational technologies.

Collaborative Learning

The current technology deployed in education enables most students to stay connected. Collaboration here implies that students meet, discuss, and collectively derive possible solutions (Fu & Hwang, 2018). This is done by teachers who assign group work to students to be collectively done. From this point, teachers can discern individual responsibilities, group targets, and interaction within the group. Students' performances are likely to increase when institutions

foster collaborative learning. However, this can mainly be achieved when institutions implement mobile and wireless technologies since it is more convenient, enhances connectivity, personalization, and, importantly, interaction (Fu & Hwang, 2018). This has created more interest for young learners who find the traditional education system to be hectic. Using mobile devices and wireless technology in the education sector, learners find it simpler to achieve the group requirement, unlike the traditional learning technique. Students can construct knowledge rather than create, making education more interesting (Fu & Hwang, 2018). Therefore, collaborative learning activities carried out in mobile learning environments create more experience for learners.

Furthermore, collaborative learning incorporates sharing and discussing specific features. Unlike the traditional teaching technique of teaching for a given duration, the current technology has assisted in bridging the gap between teachers and learners (Fu & Hwang, 2018). This is through constant interaction since teachers are easily accessible both physically and on internet platforms. The accessibility of teachers through the current technology application has made learning more authentic and meaningful. Consequently, the wireless technologies and mobiles enable learners to access the right contents when in need rather than waiting for the instructor to guide them (Fu & Hwang, 2018). Apart from waiting for the instructor's clarifications, students from one classroom can easily share their thoughts and ideas. Therefore, due to its social nature and the application of modern devices for interactive educational activities, collaborative learning is rising.

Data Management and Analytics

Educators and learners can now easily manage data with the advancement of technology in the education sector. The number of tests done by the students completed chapters and the performances can easily be managed by teachers (Ifenthaler & Yau, 2020). For instance, when an assignment is issued to the whole class, teachers can assess their accuracy and completion online, specifically in a created webpage. Subsequently, teachers can offer appropriate guidance to the learners and put more emphasis on course modules. The automation of the classroom activities enhances this. Just like other sectors, the education system's operation is based on a competitive environment. Institutions, particularly the higher learning area determined in fulfilling performance excellence by incorporating innovation in their system. Thus, better performances can only be achieved by applying technologies such as computers, among other devices, to relay necessary learning tools.

Further, analytics is becoming important equipment in online learning activities. Instructors can measure learners' engagement and performances given the availability of data. According to Ifenthaler & Yau (2020), the deployment of data analytics in higher learning has created a conducive environment for learning. However, this entirely depends on the analytics approaches by the instructors. For instance, collecting students' reviews by the instructors assist in determining the best tool for better performances. Furthermore, when data reveal an issue with the student's performance, it can easily be corrected. Hence, data analytics enable remote monitoring of the students that assist in offering personalized training. Also, increased priority given to data analytics in education has created better room for conducting research and more publication of learning analytics (Ifenthaler & Yau, 2020). Hence, an institution with recommended and implanted data analytics benefits learners and teachers as it creates a conducive learning environment.

In conclusion, some of the dramatic trends and issues in educational technology include; collaborative learning, management of data and analytics, and learning outside the classroom. Learning outside the classroom is the most current trend in educational technology that emerged during the onset of covid-19 to create social distancing. It has assisted in catering to students' basic needs, such as getting more content online. Also, Collaboration here denotes that students meet, discuss and derive possible solutions collectively. This is done by teachers who assign group work to students to be collectively done enhancing the social nature of students, which is not the case with traditional techniques. Lastly, educators and learners can manage data with the advancement of technology in the education sector. Therefore, the current technology has made learning easier and interesting.

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