



Teacher's Perception and Mobile Technology

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Abstract

Through out the world there is awareness of the fundamental role of new information and communication technologies (ICT) in the field of education. Theoretical and empirical studies have considered the importance of ICTs in the process of teaching and learning. As per the survey report of TRAI(2014) telephone users in India are 93.30 crore and out of them maximum numbers of users are mobile phone users. The number of smartphone users in India was estimated to reach 442 million in 2022(Madhumita Jagmohan,2020). So it is a peak time to use mobile technology in teaching learning. Today's students grew up with technology and expect to use it to get information, solve problems and communicate. For this purpose teachers must have positive attitude and flexibility towards use of technology in education. Keeping in mind the importance of mobile technology in the development of society, researcher took up a study to access a perception of college and school teachers towards the use of mobile technology.

Keywords – Mobile Technology

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Introduction

Advancement in digital technology have created immense opportunities and some challenges for language arts and writing instructors. Used well, interactive writing platforms can spur students' creativity and help them develop skills needed for effective communication in the 21st century. Today's students grew up with technology and expect to use it to get information, solve problems and communicate. These are the very skills they need now and in the future. When classrooms are equipped with the right combination of technology tools, students can learn all the skills they need to prepare.

What is Mobile Technology?

Technology is defined as "the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes." Therefore, mobile technology is an application of that scientific knowledge in a portable format or presentation. Depending on the purpose and period, this can encompass a wide range of options. For example, the handheld calculator replaced the technology of the abacus. In, modern time, the term mobile technology primarily refers to digital information and communication products such as mobile telephones, global positioning systems, laptop computers and electronic tablets.

Why Mobile Technology?

As per the survey report of TRAI (In Divya Bhaskar,2014) 93.30 crore people of India used technology in their day to day life. But, using technology for communication is different thing and using technology for teaching learning is a different thing.

For a developing country like India, where technology is not well embraced, a mobile phone becomes a vital ICT tool in schools.

Mobile phones are affordable to large community of Indian in terms of both cost and usability. Mobile phones offers varieties of used options such as Internet, radio, video, audio, camera, mp3,etc. In addition mobile phone is handy, making it user friendly beyond the classroom walls.

- It enhances learning anytime and anywhere.

- Mobile technology makes teaching learning,
- Active
- collaborative
- creative
- Integrative
- Evaluative.

Though as per pros and cons of every new technology, use of mobile technology efforts encounter some challenges like,

- Lack of technology tools in most of the school.
- Lack of a policy for technology in education.
- Lack of skilled teachers.
- Lack of reliable supply of electricity in most school
- Limited access to internet.

That is why it is necessary to know the perception of teachers towards the use of mobile technology in teaching learning process.

Importance of the study:-

This study will help in fostering participatory approach to teaching learning process. Studies show that the use of handhelds in the classroom enables learners to transition from an occasional, supplemental use of technology associated with computer labs, to a frequent and the learning lab initiatives has experimented with mobile technologies to create an engaging learning environment for students. The inclusion of the mobile device can prove to be most effective only when it leverages pre-existing technological and community based resources. Use of mobile technology in teaching learning have the potential of improving administrative processes and allow parents or other stakeholders to be involved in their child's education in a more proactive manner. Keeping in mind the importance of mobile technology in the development of society the researcher took up a study to assess a perception of school and college teachers towards use of mobile technology.

Research question:-

What are the perception of college teachers and school teachers towards the use of mobile technology in Teaching-Learning?

Sample:-

A sample of 80 teachers teaching in various schools and colleges of Anand city was selected for the study. The sample consisted of 40 school teachers and 40 college teachers. The sample was selected by using random sampling method on personal interview basis. No distinction was made based on types of management i.e. government and private.

Tool:-

Questionnaire related to perception of teachers on mobile phone use developed by investigator was used. It consists of 10 items with Yes/No response.

Procedure:-

Indicating the purpose of the study, permission was sought from the teachers who were to be a part of the study. Following this personal interview was taken and then the questionnaire was given to teachers individually or in small groups. Data was analyzed separately for college and school teachers.

Statistical technique:-

Percentage analysis was used for analysis of the data.

Findings of the Data:-

From the analysis of the data following findings were found. Both college teachers and school teachers admit to have not learned to use mobile phones in teaching. College teachers were willing to use mobile phones if they learn on how to use them in teaching-learning. School teachers on the other hand had several reservations over mobile phone use in teaching.

Some of these reservations were:

- I don't know how I can use a mobile phone in teaching
- Teachers are not allowed to communicate with students through a mobile phone.
- Our school laws prohibit mobile phones among students.
- The government banned mobile phones in schools.
- Mobile phones are the source of students' misbehavior.
- Mobile phones draw away students attention to learning.

Conclusions:-

From the findings of the study following conclusions were found. Though mobile phone is the most accessible technology tool in India, there is a limited use of mobile phone in teaching and learning in both University and in schools. At university level, lecturers are willing

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to use mobile phone as a learning tool. At school level teachers are still reserved. Despite of its handy, accessibility and affordability mobile phones are not accepted in schools for use in learning. Teachers are not allowed to communicate with students, this can hinder the opportunity for learning beyond the classroom walls. The current teachers attitude towards mobile phone technology acts as a set back towards the development of open and distance learning in the lower level of education.

Recommendation:-

To bring the concept of open and distance learning in the lower level of education, a change should start at a government level. Teachers should also be exposed to the multitude of learning opportunities provided through the learning flexibility offered by a mobile phone.

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