Digital Literacy Upholds Digital Equity in The World of Digital Education

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Abstract:

In today's dynamic environment, ongoing improvement and progress in one's knowledge and learning capacity are required. When we acknowledge the importance of self-development and our requirement for ongoing progress. Technological education is essentially the use of electronic equipment in the classroom to increase communication among educators and students, as well as amongst students themselves. Its appropriate application will also help to enrich the educational procedure and provide learners with hands-on experience that they will undoubtedly carry with them throughout their lives. This will help contribute to the learning environment. Most importantly, in today's digital world, integrating technological advances the classroom prepares kids for a digitally operated work life, where digital literacy is a valuable life skill. Digital technology can be utilised to assist the inclusion of various student populations in the classroom in a variety of ways, including improving educational content accessibility, increasing adaptation, and enabling remote learning options. Digital technology has evolved into a social imperative for ensuring education as an essential human right, particularly within a world where crises and wars are becoming more common. Persistent digital inequalities, on the other hand, can impede digital equity and inclusion, as well as inclusion and equity in education in general, in particular for the most disadvantaged pupils.

Key words: digital world, technology, learner, teacher, education…..

Introduction

Technology has transformed every part of our life, including education. As we go farther into the digital world, schools have to integrate technology into their instruction techniques. Technology has completely taken over our world, drastically altering how we live, work, and study. Technology has proven to be a game changer in educational institutions, transforming conventional approaches of education and learning. In the classroom, students are frequently given a large amount of information to comprehend fast. This might be confusing and overwhelming. Technology makes it possible to access a plethora of internet resources that aid in independent study and research. It also aids with the educational process by making topics easier to grasp. The heydays of rote retaining and whiteboard lectures are long gone. This study also investigates the role of nations and state education organisations in ensuring the accessibility of technology for learning resources and the linkages among computer access and utilization. Furthermore, where states participate in educational policy, equity is frequently a primary governmental goal **(Dayton, 2000).** Students nowadays are digital natives, having grown up encircled by technology and expecting a more engaged, dynamic learning experience. One of the most important advantages of using technology for instruction is that it allows pupils to have a more tailored learning experience. Furthermore, technology can assist teachers in more efficiently assessing and tracking student progress. Teachers may locate areas where students are suffering and provide targeted support to help them improve by employing statistical analysis and student performance measures.

Digital Literacy

Digital literacy is not a new concept. Nonetheless, the post-COVID era prompted revisiting or even redefining of this paradigm. Previously, it was about fundamental computer abilities; now, it is about making intelligent use of technological advances and the internet. The capacity to find, assess, use, share, and develop content using information technology and the Internet is referred to as digital literacy. Digital literacy is defined as the ability to explore and acquire online information, to be secure and profitable in the age of the internet, and to effectively transmit information to others. Digital literacy abilities might involve media as well as visual literacy depending on the scenario. Digital literacy is more closely related with technical access, information gathering, comprehension, and dissemination abilities. (Dinata et al., 2021). Digital literacy refers to the secure, productive, responsible and ethical use of technology and the internet in the classroom and in everyday life. Teachers may choose to try certain ways for increasing digital literacy in the schools they teach after understanding its value for students, which lies in scholastic advancement, enhanced security on the internet, increased technological equity, and social opportunities.

Education in Digital world

Education in the Digital Age alters global education. Teaching is one of the few fields where digital consequences are not obvious. Digital learning helps to shape the subsequent generations of young minds and improve their educational procedures. Both new teachers and students are familiar with technology innovations that help them restructure their past as well as their present. Digitalization has become an indispensable component of human life throughout the years. Several studies have found that strong leadership, a concentrate on the connection between the pedagogical goals and technological advances for school-wide adoption of digital technologies, a focus on the process, and a relationship with external partners are required for the effective implementation of technological innovations in education. **(Voogt et. al., 2011).** Students, too, must practise new educational learning patterns in order to keep up with global progress. The use of technology for learning to stimulate how they can be used in real life is an interesting trend these days. The adoption of smartphone and laptop computers is only one indication of how quickly technology is invading people's lives around the world.

Need of Digitalization in the Educational Sector

In this digital age, it is critical to understand how helpful it is to include technology into schooling. There are numerous ways and means by which technology can enter the lives of students, such as when teachers use digital devices to familiarise students with real-life circumstances, give them regular feedback, and even assists hone their skills, the use of mobile phones is now handy even for small children, and this shows the influence of technological advancement on the upcoming generation, and it additionally promotes in combining with students is better achievable with high-tech technology. Teachers nowadays embrace new digital tools to stay current on their pupils' professional development and general educational skills. Various degree programmes are also being launched these days to provide pupils with improved digital approaches. With all of these considerations, it is critical to recognise that digitalization is transforming the educational industry, because creative instruction is the new teachers' motto. With a variety of extracurricular events and activities, the education sector is advancing towards a better and more developed facet in the real world, such as the usage of GIFs, The presentation, and 3D picture technology, which aids in the simple comprehension of material. More importantly, AI enables task evaluation and online instructional assistants to improve teaching methodologies. It also assists in providing necessary feedback to students and teachers, as well as tracking their data records. The fundamental factor is that digital education enhances the curriculum and assists each student in learning and imbibing the subject's core in depth. Significantly, online education promotes worldwide education methods

such as mentoring at the tap of their smart devices, and there are expectations on enhanced education patterns that will change this business towards a web-based learning platform.

Preparing Students for the Digital Age through Technology

The world is continuously changing, and future professions will necessitate an entirely different set of talents than those required in the past. In the modern digital world, it is critical that students learn the skills necessary for achievement in the future workforce. Furthermore, digitalization prepared structures for worldwide by providing them with their own international languages and interpersonal platform networks (**Castells, 2008**). Technology can help kids prepare for the age of the internet by teaching them the skills they will need to flourish in a digital world. This encompasses computer literacy, coding, and ability to solve problems. Students can build these key abilities and prepare for future challenges by using instructional technology resources that include coding platforms, augmented reality modelling, and web-based learning materials.

Challenges and Considerations for Integrating Technology in Education

While there are evident benefits to using technology in education, there are several problems and concerns that schools must bear in mind when incorporating computer into their teaching techniques. Expense, access, and training are a few examples. There are undoubtedly classrooms with devices that do nothing more than accumulate dust **(Cuban, 2001).** It is critical to guarantee that all students, regardless of background or socioeconomic class, have a chance to use the technology they require to succeed. Educational institutions must also provide adequate teacher training and support to ensure that technology is effectively integrated into their teaching techniques. Finally, schools must use technology in a balanced way, guaranteeing that it is used alongside using conventional instructional techniques to give an overall education that fulfils the requirements of all children. Technology has the ability to transform education by improving learning outcomes, encouraging collaboration and creativity, including prepare students for life in the digital age. Independent schools can give their pupils with the abilities they'll require to succeed in the twenty-first century by using technological tools into their teaching techniques. However, it is critical to remember the problems and considerations associated in technology integration in order to guarantee that it is implemented effectively and fairly.

Digital equity

Digital equity is the idea that everyone should have equitable access to digital technology such as the internet. The notion tries to eliminate the digital infrastructural divide that provides certain people an advantage over others in their studies, jobs, and society. Digital equity, also known as digital inclusion, emphasises the need of all people being able to easily use current technology (IT) gadgets and activities. While the COVID-19 pandemic drove many schools and companies to relocate to remote settings, digital

equity came back into the forefront. Suddenly, environmental variables made internet connectivity a requirement, highlighting how many people experience disadvantages due to a lack of access to technology.

Importance of Digital Equity

In the twenty-first century, digital equity is a must. As more and more critical services and activities shift at least certain aspects of their presence online, equitable use of technology becomes increasingly important. Those that have affordable access to rapid digital infrastructure reap multiple benefits. For example, internet connectivity allows you to find, buy, and use more economical or efficient tools. If a person can save money by researching for and purchasing a superior alternative online, they can put the money back into their schooling or own business. This benefit accumulates over time and may end in financial as well as productivity gains that would be out of range for someone lacking equal possession of technologies. Similarly, early exposure to technology establishes the foundation of knowledge required to keep up with quickly advancing technology. When youngsters do not have access to computers or fast the World Wide Web, they may lag behind their peers in terms of digital literacy. As technology improves even faster, it might be tough to keep up.

Role of teachers in ensuring digital equity in classroom

Teachers put in a lot of time and effort to incorporate innovative digital learning models. People can stay connected and learn thanks to technology. Teachers play an important role in achieving digital equity in the following ways.

Create an equitable environmentEducators must ensure that every kid has the opportunity to use technology in order for them to flourish academically. Students with restricted access to technology encounter difficulties completing homework, participating in conversations in class, and learning new skills. They also find it difficult to stay up with their friends who have greater access to technology. Here are some ideas for educators. First, determine which devices your pupils have for digital learning. If any student requires assistance, simply inquire whether your organisation or any other group can assist. Second, when incorporating new software into the lesson, it is preferable to select a solution that is mobile-friendly, since students can use the programme from any device.

Provide training and support

After ensuring that all kids have utilization of technological devices at home, instructors must give pupils with training and support. It is not only about educating students how to utilize gadgets and applications, but also involves instructing pupils how to use digital technologies properly. Identifying misinformation is a crucial task for pupils as well. Technology makes studying more

convenient, but we are all nevertheless discovering how to use it. Educators must monitor pupils' usage of technology as well as their performance. Provide assistance to individuals in need.

Engage parents

Parental participation is one of the most significant hurdles to student success. Parents play a critical impact in their children's academic success. They will be unable to assist their child if they are unaware of what they require. Teachers must collaborate with families to guarantee that they understand ways to assist kids they love at home. They must also ensure that parents appreciate the value of playing a role in their children's education. Teachers can involve parents by hosting parent programmes and inviting them to classroom visits.

Empower teachers

Educators are not born with skills; they must be developed over time. As we anticipate teachers to incorporate technology to bring creativity into the classroom, we must also support teachers in any way they require. Teachers should be given a notebook or desktop computer to assist them find the best solution for their needs and how to facilitate hybrid teaching. Collaboration is also an excellent approach for teachers to master new technology. Teachers might collaborate to create something new or share their teaching techniques. When teachers want technical assistance, they should be supplied with materials or contact information.

Conclusion

As technology alters civic life, trades, occupations, industries, and subjects of study, it becomes increasingly impossible to educate children for an interconnected future with no involving them in collaborative learning in schools in an equitable manner. There is a pressing requirement for study participants, digital funders, builders, and classroom instructors to collaborate and figure out how to best ensure that new innovations serve the pupils who are the most disadvantaged. Even if patterns of technology usage are intimately linked to broader trends of bias in education, school administrators can take some separate actions to alter the current trends of education-technology being largely utilised for detached low-rigor activities. In education, there are no silver bullets. Additionally, there is no challenge that the educational technology will fix on its own. The difficult aspects of constructing egalitarian schools will continue to be difficult. However, the tremendous promise of instructional technology for enhancing education and instruction will not be realised unless we combine our educational technology initiatives with an ongoing dedication to digital fairness.

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Dr. Nandini N.

For publication of research paper title

"Digital Literacy Upholds Digital Equity in The World of Digital Education"

Published in 'Shiksha Samvad' Peer-Reviewed / Refereed Research Journal and

E-ISSN: 2584-0983(Online), Volume-01, Issue-02, Month December, Year- 2023.

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