

DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT - PROMISING ROLE OF A TEACHER

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Abstract

Teaching is a complex activity. Competent teachers apply broad, deep and integrated sets of knowledge and skills as they plan for implement and revise instruction. In this modern world knowledge is power. Through digitization, the new emerging mode of business, India could be transformed into empowered society and knowledge economy. The knowledge of basic use of internet, which connects everything and everyone online aims at empowering citizens of India. Spreading of digital literacy is one of the basic element of digital campaign, which in turn empowers young India. Teachers are the main catalysts to convey the digital knowledge to young Indians. There is a need for a teacher to go parallel in both learning and teaching new technology to students which in turn digitally empowers them. This paper emphasizes at evaluating the thrust of teacher in procuring and disseminating digital knowledge for digital empowerment.

Keywords: Digital, Empowerment, Teachers, Education, Learning

Introduction

The most important part of the educational process is a teacher with key and professional competences, who has knowledge of current educational technologies and is involved in the active process of maintaining the functioning and development of the process.

Digital literacy is the ability to locate, organize, understand, evaluate and create information for using digital technology. It is the basic knowledge of digital medium, to utilize the technology of internet, smart phones, and computer tablet. It is the introduction of information technology in every sector of the economy to empower people, that is, from health to industry, education to commerce. We have seen the conversion of entire world into digital space, where one has to adapt himself into digital learning.

Educational institutions and teachers are major players in empowering young India. Digital literacy among teachers makes their work easy and simple. When they are aware of digital skills and competencies, they can teach and guide the students more competently and professionally. Today's educational environment is dynamic and challenging, which demands the teachers to play a significant role like digital networkers and learning consultants. There

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is a need for proper search, evaluation, canalization, application and dissemination of information according to the specific context. The great challenge is whether universities and teachers are meeting these needs at a higher level of thinking to empower the students who are future citizens of India. Therefore, in this digital era teachers also have to inculcate co-learning along with students.

Teaching is considered as one of the noble professions, which builds the nation by keeping the talent pool of students employable, by guiding them in a right path. Though today's students are more passionate about their subjects of interest, they require mentorship to tune up themselves, which they expect from teachers

Review of Literature

Dua, Shikha; Wadhawan, Seema, Gupta, Sweety; (2016); Issues, Trends & Challenges of Digital Education: An Empowerment Innovative Classroom Model for Learning www.conferenceworld.in, ISBN: 978-81-932074-8-2; The objective of this paper is to discuss the upcoming trends in digital education system, which shapes the future of young generation towards empowerment. To resolve the shortcomings of the traditional education system, the world is moving towards digital education which addresses all the issues and challenges of traditional education. The authors feels that digital education can be defined as the use of a combination of technology, digital content and instruction in the education system to make it more effective and efficient than the traditional education system.

Dr. Thah, Soon, Seng; (2013); Digital empowerment in education for school administrators and teachers – The Malaysian experience; This study aims at exploring the need for Digital education from Pre-school to Post-secondary education and another higher study. The author opines that Digital empowerment depends on the systematic plan and its implementation in educational institutions where it can be measured by the level of teacher teaching and student learning. The author also states not only students and teachers; parents should also take active part and support their children to excel in this field.

Akkoyunlu, Buket, Yilmaz ; (2011); Prospective Teachers' Digital Empowerment and Their Information Literacy Self-Efficacy; Eurasian Journal of Educational Research (EJER) 11(44):33-50; The purpose of the study is to determine the prospective teachers' digital empowerment and their information literacy self-efficacy. Methods: Descriptive survey

research was designed to search prospective teachers' digital empowerment and their self-efficacy beliefs about information literacy. Result showed that prospective teachers' self-efficacy beliefs on the interpreting, synthesizing & using the information and evaluating the product and process and their digital empowerment on the empowerment are not fully satisfactory. Based on our findings, it is recommended to develop and maintain information literacy and digital empowerment programs for prospective teachers. Which are vital for lifelong learning? Besides, government's policies should give big importance to diffusion of information literacy and digital empowerment in schools and in the society.

Shenoy, Veena, Mahendher, Sheetal, Vijay, Navita; (2020); COVID 19 Lockdown Technology Adaption, Teaching, Learning, Students Engagement and Faculty Experience; Mukta Shabd Journal, Volume IX, Issue IV, APRIL/2020, ISSN No : 2347-3150. The purpose of this paper is to understand the technology adoption, teaching and learning process, student engagement and faculty experience towards virtual classrooms during Lockdown due to COVID 19. The finding of the study suggests that during the lockdown period faculty have undergone the process of technology adoption and students are involved with various online modes of learning. There was lots of fear, anxiety and consciousness among students and faculty regarding COVID 19.

Objectives of the Study

- To evaluate the digital literacy among teacher fraternity.
- To study the effect of digitalization on educational process.
- To measure the influence of digitization on teaching
- To provide suggestions to increase teachers efficiency to achieve learning outcomes.

Research Methodology

Study conducted is both Analytical and descriptive in nature based. Online survey has been conducted to collect the primary data. Sample of 50 teachers are selected randomly by random sampling technique from Colleges of Warangal District. A self-made questionnaire carrying 15 items and secondary data is collected from other research articles, websites and journals.

Limitations of the study

- Information is collected only from UG and PG teachers.
- A small sample size of 50 is considered.
- Only Commerce, Management and Art lecturers are considered.

Following questions have been asked from the sample during survey to collect the data

1. Number of teachers well acquainted to Digital Teaching Techniques

| SL.NO. | PARTICULARS | NO. OF RESPONDENTS | PERCENTAGE |
|--------|--------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Acquired | 06 | 12% |
| 2 | Not acquired | 44 | 88% |
| Total | | 50 | 100% |

Source: *Primary data*

2. Teaching Technique that reaches the listener quickly

| SL.NO. | PARTICULARS | NO. OF RESPONDENTS | PERCENTAGE |
|--------|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Virtual sessions | 22(50) | 44% |
| 2 | Learning management System(LMS) | 23(50) | 46% |
| 3 | PPTs | 43(50) | 86% |
| 4 | Chalk & Talk | 27(50) | 54% |

Source: *Primary data*

3. Only Chalk and Talk method is no more an impressive teaching technique

| SL.NO. | PARTICULARS | NO. OF RESPONDENTS | PERCENTAGE |
|--------|----------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Agree | 10 | 20% |
| 2 | Strongly agree | 22 | 44% |
| 3 | Disagree | 07 | 14% |
| 4 | Neutral | 11 | 22% |
| Total | | 50 | 100 |

Source: *Primary data*

4. Teachers acquaintance level towards the Emerging Digital pedagogical sources

| SL.NO. | PARTICULARS | NO. OF RESPONDENTS | PERCENTAGE |
|--------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Highly updated | 23 | 46% |
| 2 | Moderately updated | 27 | 54% |
| Total | | 50 | 100% |

Source: *Primary data*

5. "Need of the Hour" is to be aware of Contemporary teaching techniques

| SL.NO. | PARTICULARS | NO. OF RESPONDENTS | PERCENTAGE |
|--------|----------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Agree | 24 | 48% |
| 2 | Strongly agree | 23 | 46% |
| 3 | Natural | 07 | 14% |
| Total | | 50 | 100 |

Source: *Primary data*

6. There is paradigm shift in the learning aspiration of Students and Knowledge enhancement

| SL.NO. | PARTICULARS | NO. OF RESPONDENTS | PERCENTAGE |
|--------|----------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Agree | 23 | 46% |
| 2 | Strongly agree | 20 | 40% |
| 3 | Natural | 07 | 14% |
| Total | | 50 | 100 |

Source: *Primary data*

7. MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) are slowly replacing the traditional Classroom teaching

| SL.NO. | PARTICULARS | NO. OF RESPONDENTS | PERCENTAGE |
|--------|----------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Agree | 14 | 28% |
| 2 | Strongly agree | 13 | 26% |
| 3 | Natural | 23 | 46% |
| Total | | 50 | 100% |

Source: *Primary data*

8. Mobile phone and other Gadgets are the modern-day source of knowledge seeking

| SL.NO. | PARTICULARS | NO. OF RESPONDENTS | PERCENTAGE |
|--------|----------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Agree | 10 | 20% |
| 2 | Strongly agree | 35 | 70% |
| 3 | Disagree | 05 | 10% |
| Total | | 50 | 100% |

Source: *Primary data*

9. Digitally robust Campus is the next Hot-spot in the Education sector

| SL.NO. | PARTICULARS | NO. OF RESPONDENTS | PERCENTAGE |
|--------|----------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Agree | 10 | 20% |
| 2 | Strongly agree | 35 | 70% |
| Total | | 50 | 100% |

Source: *Primary data*

10. Active user of E- Library, Digi-magazines, and E-Journals

| SL.NO. | PARTICULARS | NO. OF RESPONDENTS | PERCENTAGE |
|--------|-------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes | 10 | 20% |
| 2 | No | 40 | 80% |
| Total | | 50 | 100% |

Source: *Primary data*

11. E- Library is the alternate source of learning for the present-day learner

| SL.NO. | PARTICULARS | NO. OF RESPONDENTS | PERCENTAGE |
|--------|-------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Agree | 27 | 54% |

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|
| 2 | Strongly agree | 17 | 34% |
| 3 | Neutral | 06 | 12% |
| Total | | 50 | 100% |

Source: *Primary data*

12. Social Media is the linkage that associates the World in one's Knowledge enrichment

| SL.NO. | PARTICULARS | NO. OF RESPONDENTS | PERCENTAGE |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Agree | 03 | 06% |
| 2 | Strongly agree | 13 | 26% |
| 3 | Neutral | 34 | 68% |
| Total | | 50 | 100% |

Source: *Primary data*

13. Websites utilised as a part of knowledge enhancement

| SL.NO. | PARTICULARS | NO. OF RESPONDENTS | PERCENTAGE |
|----------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Khan academy | 07(50) | 14% |
| 2 | Alison | 13(50) | 26% |
| 3 | Quora | 30(50) | 60% |
| 4 | Medium | 06(50) | 12% |
| 5 | one of the above | 17(50) | 34% |

Source: *Primary data*

14. Digital Education alters the prevailing Education system

| SL.NO. | PARTICULARS | NO. OF RESPONDENTS | PERCENTAGE |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Agree | 20 | 40% |
| 2 | Strongly agree | 17 | 34% |
| 3 | Neutral | 13 | 26% |
| Total | | 50 | 100% |

Source: *Primary data*

Analysis and Interpretation:

Through the above survey, it is proved that all teachers are aware of digital technologies. Respondents agree that not only Chalk and Talk there are other digital technologies of teaching like PPT, Virtual sessions and Learning Management systems which are widely used. More than 50% of respondents are acquainted towards the emerging pedagogical resources and are aware that Contemporary teaching techniques are the "Need of an Hour". Respondents stress on the active participation of the Learners in the classroom.

Very few respondents agree that a massive open online course (MOOC) are slowly replacing classroom techniques, where all of them agree Mobile phones and Modern gadgets are also the sources of knowledge seeking. At the end, more than 50% of respondents agree that Digital Technologies alters the prevailing education system.

Suggestions

- Teachers should show interest in the use of digital teaching techniques.
- Educational Institutions must provide a robust digital environment, infrastructure and create a digitally equipped campus.
- Education Institutions should train the teachers with the latest digital teaching techniques/ learning sources.
- Digital literacy must enable the user, the ability to locate, evaluate and use effectively the needed information.
- Digital literacy must enhance the ability to organize, apply and communicate information to the needy according to the situation.

Conclusion

In order to digitally empower the citizens of India, the government has formulated the digital education from the basic level of learning, which can be adopted by the teachers in their teaching technique. Today's educational environment is dynamic and challenging, which demands the teachers to play a significant role to guide and motivate students in present crisis so that, they do not get stress due to uncertainty of future. Educational institutions and teachers have to take the responsibility to empower the young India and for that purpose both teachers and students need to acquire digital competencies to face the challenges in education during the crisis.

From the above analysis, we can find out that teachers are digitally literate. It is a challenge to adopt the Digital teaching techniques along with chalk and talk. It connects the students to digital world which in turn enhances the digital awareness and makes a way to the digital empowerment.

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