Implications and the Usefulness of Internet in Teaching-Learning process in Education

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1. Introduction

Present era is rightly dubbed as an era of "Information Technology". Togetherness of information technology and education takes out of the rigid stereotyped system of chalkboard into exciting superhighway. Information technology in the form of computers and communication networks has been steadily increasing its impact upon education. Processes of information dissemination have readily changed. Now that a world-wide network of computers comprised of many smaller networks that are all interlinked is available in abundance, internet may be used to advantage to offer variety of information, seminars, short and long courses nationally and internationally. The changes in the arena of education especially in teaching learning process are quite perceptible now. Now a days this technology is being used quite extensively for conducting the process of teaching and learning in both formal and informal modes of education. The paper focused on some programmatic issues which must be kept in the mind while bringing internet closer to education. The paper also shows the examples of programming and planning opportunities and advantages and disadvantages of information and communication technology.

The world is changing fast due to technological developments. Application of technologies is seen pervasively. The wider changes taking place in the society are providing a context for instructional development. Over years there is a shift from oral to written, formal to non formal, teacher centred to student centred and rigid to flexible forms of instruction.

Present era is rightly dubbed as an era of "Information Technology". Recent innovations in information technology have revolutionized the whole concept of education within and outside institutions. Togetherness of information technology and education takes out of the rigid stereotyped system of chalkboard into exciting superhighway. Information technology in the form of computers and communication networks has been steadily increasing its impact upon education. Processes of information dissemination have readily changed. Now that a world-wide network of computers comprised of many smaller networks that are all interlinked is available in abundance, internet may be used to advantage to offer variety of information, seminars, short and long courses nationally and internationally. Internet brought in the concept of faster delivery of instruction and communication reducing undue distortions. It is now visible all over the world.

In India also this technology has arrived in a big way. Numbers of internet users are increasing day by day. The changes in the arena of education especially in teaching learning process are quite perceptible now. Now a days this technology is being used quite extensively for conducting the process of teaching and learning in both formal and informal modes of education. Some of the **advantages** can be summarized as below:

- A dedicated comprehensive network infrastructure allowing for communication with computers almost anywhere and everywhere.
- Reduces time spent in journey to conference or school and college sites.

- Easy accessibility of information to large numbers simultaneously.
- Users can be more "anonymous", creating a greater level of equality that might not be found in a face-to-face situation.
- However, associated with the above advantages, there are some of the **limitations** which can briefly summarized as below:
- Initial investment in equipment can be little costly.
- Access to the Internet i.e. The University, or an Internet Service Provider is one of the basic requirements.
- At least a small amount of computer knowledge to harness the power of the Internet is quite essential.
- The amount of time spent "surfing" the net can become too great.
- The Internet may not be suitable for teaching and learning when a more personal interaction is desired. Skill development is one such example.
- There is a considerable amount of information available on Internet which may not be considered as authentic or may be offensive.
- Technological problems can arise disconnecting users from their sources of information.

Therefore, it is not the fact that bringing internet closer to education in all its endeavors will make education and particularly teaching learning more effective. Internet should be used in education and teaching learning looking into its significance in the situation where it is to be used. It should be looking into the requirements of the specific programme.

2. Programmatic Issues

While bringing Internet closer to educations particularly using it for maximizing the process of teaching learning, some of the important programmatic issues which must be kept in mind are:

- Technology Considerations and the Material to be presented
- Teaching Styles of the instructor
- Learning Styles of the participants
- Degree and Type of Interaction required

The probable questions which can be considered are:

2.1 Technology Considerations and the Material to presented

1. Is the subject too complex to be effectively presented using the Internet alone? What other synchronous and asynchronous technological options are available to supplement this technology?
2. Despite best efforts of the planner and those of an instructor, will participants become demotivated, bored, lose interest and walkout? Will they grow frustrated with the instructor and the material?
3. How important is interaction between the instructors and the participants, and among the participants? At what points should it occur?

2.2 Teaching Styles of the instructor

- Is the instructor organize teaching in a way that works casually? Will the information be available to them on timely fashion?

2.3 Learning Styles of the participants

1. Who are the participants and are they at all used to learn without instructor? Given that information, what pace should be used to make sure that there is first time understanding?

2. What do you think are their preferred learning styles?
3. How will participants use the information being presented?
4. How much do they already know about the topic?
5. Will there be different levels of knowledge in the group? How different will those levels be?
6. To what extent should and could a cooperative learning be promoted?

2.4 Degree and Type of Interaction Required
1. How often is interaction needed if at all?
2. What forums will be used for interaction?
   a) E-Mail
   b) Voice-Mail
   c) Video-Mail
   d) On-line Chat
   e) On-line Video Conferencing
1. Can participants be organized into groups without being in the same location?
2. How ran interaction be used to test participant understanding?

3. Examples of Programming & Planning Opportunities
Considering the opportunities that the Internet offers and also bearing in mind what has been said about the advantages and limitations of this technology, one should think about both routine and innovative ways in which this technology could be used and what we need to bear in mind when using this technology ?

We should explore the following questions:
1. How appropriate would this technology be?
2. What sorts of programmes would be best?
3. How would you prepare instructors and the participants?
4. What would you add to increase the program's effectiveness?
5. What other forms of synchronous and asynchronous learning technologies might be used as a supplement?
6. What could not be done? To what extent would those limitations affect the programmes success?
7. What are the major problems that should be anticipated to avoid?

4. Conclusion
No doubt that internet is going to bring about a change in the content and process of teaching and learning. It is steadily increasing its stakes in the sphere of education and is increasingly being used to maximize the effectiveness of teaching learning process. A day is not far off when it will be a powerful tool of education. However, to best realize its true potential it is necessary to first properly analyze the situation or the programme when we want to use and then only to use it If used with those considerations, it will be an asset to education.

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