

The Role of Technology in Whole-Class Teaching

Hamdi Serin¹

¹Department of Mathematics, Ishik University, Erbil, Iraq

Correspondence: Hamdi Serin, Ishik University, Erbil, Iraq. E-mail: hamdi.serin@ishik.edu.iq

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Abstract: The successful embedding of technology within educational settings has enabled teaching practice effectively and efficiently to yield more positive outcomes. The pervasive use of technological tools across educational institutions offers opportunities to develop skills of learners further. Technology in teaching and learning is conducive to achieving educational goals. This study discusses the impact of technology on education and how technology-led educational tools infuse whole class teaching.

Keywords: Technology, Education, Influence, Whole Class Teaching

1. Introduction

A great number of researches have been conducted to indicate the impact of technology on education (Chambers, 2005; Brouse et al., 2011; Glover & Miller, 2001; Levy, 2002). The use of technological tools in education has increased dramatically in the last two decades. Technology in education has triggered changes in teaching and learning practice. Technology implementation in educational settings has changed pedagogical beliefs of teachers and shifted classroom instruction from teacher centered to student centered. Technology-integrated lessons have replaced lecture- based teaching by learner-centered instruction and initiated whole class teaching.

2. The Role of Technology in Education

Technology has developed at great speed and has been integrated into education for over two decades. The availability of technological devices has influenced education at all levels; for instance the role of teachers, the way of teaching and curriculum. Traditional classrooms are not favored and no longer meet the needs of learners. In our rapidly growing information age technology should be integrated into educational settings otherwise concerns over standards and performance might arise. Famed educator John Dewey (1916) suggests that “if we teach today as we taught yesterday we rob our children of tomorrow”. Technology allows teachers to create a learning environment that engages all learners. Technology itself is not the major factor that makes learning happen but it augments the objectives of lessons; moreover, it is used in the classroom to reinforce the topics learners cover. Technological devices cannot be solutions in isolation but they have the potential to meet the educational needs of learners and become enablers in teaching and learning. Technology can function as a key ingredient to render it possible to enhance learner achievement. The implementation of technology into education can eliminate core educational challenges.

Educational settings today have abundant technological devices but without planning, clear objectives of their use, structure, and skills of teachers they mean little. Technology serves to teach, develops cognitive thinking of learners, provides a wealth of information in particular through the use of internet, and helps with problem solving (Fouts, 2000). Today educational settings are flooded with technological devices. These devices when integrated into classroom instruction skillfully can enhance learning and achievement. Learners will be motivated and their attitudes towards learning will increase and they will learn more quickly. The use of technological devices can encourage at-risk learners for better accomplishment.

Means and Olson (1997) advocate the use of technology in education and suggest that:

When students are using technology as a tool or a support for communicating with others, they are in an active role rather than the passive role of recipient of information transmitted by a teacher, textbook, or broadcast. The student is actively making choices about how to generate, obtain, manipulate, or display information (p.125).

Learners are engaged in the learning process actively in technology-integrated lessons. Rather than receiving information passively from course books, learners generate information by technological tools in an active way.

3. The Role of Technology in Whole-Class Teaching

The best use of time in the classroom can be made through whole class teaching. Contact time with learners increase in whole class teaching because rather than giving a few minutes to each learner individually, whole class teaching can motivate learners throughout the lesson. The boredom of learners in the classroom will disappear and all learners will be inspired to learn at a speedy pace. Whole class teaching creates cohesion in the classroom. Low-attaining learners will be encouraged to learn with their classmates. Learners will have the opportunity of expressing their thoughts independently.

Technology can promote whole-class teaching because it underpins engagement and participation of learners. These collaborative learning activities contribute to the whole class learning experience. Compared with obsolete devices used in recent years technological tools more recently infused increased engagement and motivation into learning. Interactivity in the learning setting will significantly increase when technology is implemented in classroom instruction. Learner interaction has a pivotal role in learner achievement. In a learning environment when learners are immensely engaged learning outcomes increment. Strategic thinking, discussion and classroom activities which could be created by the use of technology underlie interactive learning.

The use of technology offers the opportunity to apply various pedagogical changes. Teachers stand a better chance of presenting learning materials to learners more effectively by employing technology in the classroom. Implementation of learning technology through using varied learning materials fosters learners' interactivity, participation and motivation. Technology positively impacts on whole-class teaching as it strengthens learner engagement in the learning setting. The use of creative materials

inspires learners to be actively involved in the learning process. Technology has the potential to draw attention of learners because a meaningful learning is created in the classroom in which both teachers and learners contribute to. In such an interactive classroom setting learning is facilitated hence more learners engage in classroom activities. Learners constantly seek for enthusiasm in the learning process and technology has the capacity to increase enthusiasm of learners (Tate, 2002). Thus teaching and learning becomes more productive when learners learn zealously.

4. Conclusion

Teachers significantly integrate technological innovations into their pedagogical practice to meet the needs of learners. The integration of technology into education has resulted in changes to teaching behavior in the classroom. Technology has influenced on teachers' pedagogical approaches and shifted teaching practice from teacher to student centered approach. Delivery of instruction through technology underpinned whole class teaching.

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