

Integration of ICT Learner's assessment at the school level

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Abstract: *The information and communication technology in the past two decades has become an integral part of the learning sector in every part of the world. Emails, television, computers, robots and everything that is connected to digital technology and are all examples of ICT. The paper concentrates upon the involvement of ICT in learner's assessment at the school level as well as the impact of online learning that has developed in recent years. The increase of online learning has also lead to increased use of computer for educational purposes inside and outside of the schools. In the past years since in the inclusion of ICT in high amounts for educational purposes, there have been a noticeably endless amount of advantages in the sector. ICT not only has helped students with better understanding but has also helped teachers dive into a much attractive and less tiring method of teaching. The aim of this paper is to explain the importance of ICT that has developed in the recent past, mainly at the school level for the purpose of improving educational quality. In addition, the paper also focuses upon how the heavy involvements of the ICT in the schools have helped students to grasp the subjects.*

Key Words: *ICT, Integration of ICT, Learner, Assessment, and School Level.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

ICT stands for information and communication technology, and it is a method used for communicating, storing and manipulation of information. With the advancement of technology governments all over the world have increased their budget for the education sector so that the perks of technology via the medium of ICT can be experienced by as many students as possible. Not to forget, these perks will result in better education quality received by the students that will, in the end, benefit the entire nation. (UKessays, 2018).

2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

2.1. The need for ICT integration:

The traditional education system has turned ineffective in providing students with the necessary knowledge they will need while facing the world alone. The earlier education system was teacher-centric which not only made it difficult for the students to grasp the required education but also demined the purpose of education. Education is to cater knowledge and prepare youngsters for the future not restore knowledge upon the students in a manner that appeals to the teacher. It is essential to keep in mind teachers are humans as well, biasness and favouring practised by teachers, along with holding grudges has spoiled the life of many youngsters. The addition of technology into the education system reduces the direct involvement of teachers while teaching the kids, which reduces the risk of the results, as mentioned above to a great extent.

Information is acquired every day, it is not possible to keep the textbooks used in the classroom updated all the time, but due to this issue, a lot of relevant information is missed out by the students.

It is vital that the taught content in the classroom is attractive, not only will it catch the attention of every student at the school but it will also help the students retain the taught material for a long term. It is much easier to depict a real-life parallel for a subject with the help of technology. The involvement of technology creates a comfortable ambience for the students to interact with each other and even a chance to have a conversation or two with a specialist from around the world. Another impressive feature of the integration of ICT into the education system is that it has no limitations of space and time, unlike the traditional form of education. The proper introduction and systematic use of technology in the classroom will work for a guarantee to improve the learning and teaching standards. It has also shown that to improve the socialisation of students within the classroom as well as outside, along with giving the students with special needs precisely the same opportunities, task and relevance as the other students (UKessays, 2018).

1.2. Impact of the integration:

The involvement of technology has made the memory game that was essential during the traditional form of education much less vital. With the availability of every tool online be it for analytical purposes or scientific purposes. The student isn't forced anymore to memorise an endless number of formulas for calculation, and the students can concentrate on the needed information they want to memorise and focus upon their problems at hand. ICT has a significant impact on the awareness and knowledge of students, along with communication skills. The technology-based education forces student to work along with students of different background culture and regions. This makes the student well aware of their surroundings and provides them with an ample amount of information about the world. No matter the distance between the students and teacher in this form of education, interaction is a must. Communication by the students cannot be avoided, and the cooperation has to be with the teacher and equally importantly, with the other students. All of the enhances the communication and socialisation skills of the students to a large extent.

ICT reported has to lead to creative learning in the students of different age groups. As the information available through ICT is never-ending, it becomes vital for the student to manipulate the available information and draw it into the required structure. All of that can only be done when the student has learnt and gone through the topic thoroughly. In the traditional form of education, most of the emphasis was put on theory, and hardly any attention was given to the practical side of the approach. ICT, on the other hand, provides a holistic way of teaching and learning which gives equal importance to the practical side of the theory as much as is does to the theoretical concept of the topic. As mentioned above, ICT is creating a student-centric educational system which allows students to get feedback in a variety of interactive methods. Students no longer have to memorise or rote study; they can no learn and understand their concept by entertaining means (UKessays, 2018). There is no doubt that the involvement of ICT in the education system has improved the education level and has had a positive impact on learning, educating, learners and teachers. There is no doubt that the present integration into the education sector in much better than the traditional form of education that was followed in the past. The involvement of ICT has been most beneficial in majorly in subjects like mathematics, and science-related subjects but in many schools, the introduction of technology has also lead to a striking interest in the humanities subjects like English and history.

3. MATERIALS:

3.1. Online Assessment:

One of the significant features of the ICT is the online assessment started by most schools. The online assessment is taken up not only assigning students with projects and assignments but also can be used to assign homework, and the same portable can be used by the teacher to organise a class in case of a sudden holiday or to clear doubts and confusions of the students.

3.2. What is online assessment?

The online assessment is the process through which tests are conducted by the motive to evaluate the academic level of the students on a particular topic. The process is also commonly known as e-assessment, online assessment and many other names. The online assessment process allows the teacher focus upon each student separately, as the teacher can conduct an evaluation for an entire class or a single student without gaining much attention from the rest of the students (EastLMS,2017).

3.3. Advantages of Online Assessment:

The most attractive element of online assessment is the ease it provides to the teachers as well as students. The teacher can upload in the evaluation according to their convenience, and the students can attempt it from anywhere, their house, while travelling, whichever time and place suits them. On addition, this kind of assessment even allows the students a chance to get immediate feedback from the teacher; they can also view their answers online and edit it if needed.

3.4. Disadvantages of Online Assessment:

The advantages of online assessment are so broad and benefits that most people overlook the downsides of this process. It is essential to look at the problems as it is to consider the advantages of such a process in a country like India. Many of the schools in India still do not have a computer lab how can it possible to expect students of such a school to be tech-savvy or have immense knowledge about technology. Similarly, most people in the country struggle to send their kids to school forcing upon them the compulsion to supply their children with technology might hamper the motive of many parents from the economically weak sections, of sending their child to school (EastLMS,2017).

3.5. The necessity of Online Assessment:

Participation in online assessment motivates the students to prepare for their upcoming examination in a much more planned and strategic manner. The online evaluation makes the student realise where they lack in their preparation for the exam and the areas the student needs to put more focus and concentration upon and work harder. The students receive feedback for their online assessment almost immediately after completion of their assessment. They hardly have to wait for the result. The student can quickly get the judgement and scores for how they have performed in the evaluation. The immediate feedback helps the students understand their drawbacks and reflect upon their mistakes better. Online assessment doesn't affect the schedule of the student, and they can easily use this method to prepare better for the competitiveness of this world. The online evaluation ensures the quality of education for the students and not just memorisation, which hardly comes to any use in real life.

Taking online assessments before your exam can also work as a practice for the students. After all, it is essential to practice anything well to make sure at the end you ace at it. The online assessment provides the students with a perfect platform to learn and as well as practice whenever needed for their chosen topic (Hackerearth,2017).

3.6. Impact of Online Assessment:

Much more manageable for the teachers to conduct the assessments online with no fuss of papers and pens. Due to the technological involvement, the stress related to assessment has significantly faced by students during assessments has reduced as noticed in reports. Digital tools help teachers with the creation and assessment of the online assessment. As the teachers not only have to conduct these assessments numerous times a year but also provide helpful feedback at the end of each assessment for each student. The help provided by online assessment saves a lot of time of the teachers. The online assessment allows the teachers to evaluate the responses from the students differently than in a traditional form of the education system. The teacher here can assess the student's response to its practicality in real life. The teachers during online assessment get a various range of different answers which they do not arrive during the traditional form of the education method. All of this creates a flexible schedule and manner for the teacher to assess the assessment of each child. The online assessment has a specific feature that allows the students to view the criteria their responses will be assessed upon by the teacher. The student has full freedom to provide the teacher with answers as desired by them. This creates transparency between teacher and student for the grading purpose of the assessments, which was almost impossible during the earlier version of the education method. The online assessment tools can inform the teachers about the exact time of submission of the assessment, the exact time taken by the student to complete the evaluation and much more. The teachers can even take the help of the digital tools provided in an online assessment software for the system to grade the students reducing the burden of the teachers further.

As the online assessment provides students with detailed and accurate feedback of their responses, it can help the teachers and students to work together to improve the performance of the entire class or individual student, as per the requirement. All of this creates a better relationship between the teacher and student, primarily due to the necessary communication. The education system has become much friendlier to the students with special needs and learning difficulties with the coming of the online assessment. As with this technology, students with special needs can take the same evaluations as the rest of their classmates and will be assessed in the same manner as other students are. This method of education is much more convenient for them as they can customise the system they are taking the assessment according to their needs. As online assessment allows students to assess their own performance over the different assessments as the students know at what level do they stand and how hard they need to work to improve their situation in the particular subject for the end of the year exams (Hackerearth,2017).

3.7. Use of computer-assisted assessment and computer adaption

Another main feature of the ICT is the use of computer-assisted assessment done for assessment at the school level and computer adaptation in the educational sector. The involvement of computers specified in the educational industry is the base of ICT, the first step taken to involve ICT into the education system was to introduce the course of the computer as a compulsory subject for every student in the schools. If this step wasn't taken in the early years of ICT introduction, there is no chance that ICT would have ended up impacting the educational sector in such revolutionary ways.

4. METHOD:

This present study is a systematic review. The descriptive method is used to review Integration of ICT Learner's assessment at the school level.

5. DISCUSSION:

What is a computer-assisted assessment?

To put it in a simple manner, the computer-assisted assessment is a process in which the evaluations of the students are assessed by the computers rather than the teachers. The assessment can be of any time of assignment, from a small quiz to an article. The development of technology allows the computer system to analyse the answers uploaded by the students and evaluate them. In most such assessment, the criteria required to meet by the students are already mentioned so that student can prepare his submission according to the desired pattern. This invitation in the education system not only reduced the burden of the teachers but has benefited the students in many ways as well, as it has been mentioned above (Proprofs, 2016).

6. ANALYSIS:

The computer-assisted assessments have been present in the education system from the year 1959. That is the year when the first computer-based training program was set up, also known as the CBT. Yet further technological advancements and developments were needed for the computer-based assessment to gain popularity. This process of assessment only gained the attention of the masses a few decades ago and has earned the reputation it had today only a decade ago. Initially, when this process was introduced in the education system, it was with the help of the selected digital tools that the assessments were assessed initially when this process was introduced in the education system, it was with the help of the selected digital tools that the evaluations were evaluated, but today any technological device on which an assessment can be taken can be assessed by the technology, as several software have developed in the recent past who support the assessment of assignment through technological devices like the computer, laptop, tablet and even smartphones (Proprofs, 2016).

7. FINDINGS:

The efficiency of the teachers has increased due to his development as the hustle while grading paper assessments are no longer required to be faced by them. They can assess 200 or 2000 students assessment with ease. As it was noticed above as well, this technological advancement has brought much convince for the students as well as teachers. The students can take up the assessment at whichever place and time that seems comfortable to them, while the teacher can look into the assessment result from whenever and from wherever it is suitable for them. The immediate scoring and feedback provided by the computers due to this advancement, takes literally no time, just a good and stable internet connection. The student hardly has to wait and reflect upon their result scores immediately, and with the feedback, they will be informed about their drawbacks, and as they will receive it shortly, it is more likely that the student doesn't repeat the same mistakes again. There are almost no additional steps needed to be taken by the teacher after assigning the assessments. The software used for the computer-based evaluation has features that make it impossible for the child to cheat during the appraisal or use any other unfair means. The computer is quick at catching a random or unusual happening which can lead the student to be automatically disqualified from the particular assessment by the network.

8. RESULT:

There are no chances of any error taking place in the grading of the assessments as there are almost nil cases of the computer making any error. A human mistake while classification is possible, but machines don't make such mistakes, and this helps create no confusion among the students and the students for sure know their grades are the final level at which they stand.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS:

When compared to the paper-based assessment, there are hardly any areas in which computer-based assessment would lag behind. The computer-based assessment in recent has proved too much more flexible, easy to use and reliable for the purpose of grading assessments of school children. Since the number of students at school level is high and it isn't possible by the teacher to provide equal amount attention to each student's paper, but the computer-based assessment makes sure each child's responses are given equal importance and attention.

10. CONCLUSION / SUMMARY:

The integration of the ICT in the education system helps with the assimilation of the latest technology into the education sector that will not only improve the learning and teaching process but also supply students with skills and knowledge that are essential for the practical implementation of their subjects. This development can also be seen as the reason behind the education shifting from being teacher-centric to student-centric

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