



THE DIGITAL EDGE!

Education Times speaks to experts from various streams in the education industry who share their views on the role of technology in education today...



Technology in education is becoming critical not as a delivery tool but also in terms of providing knowledgeable resources and interface. Given the faculty shortage in our country now, technology could come to our rescue. Technology is something that can be accessed easily by the students. With the coming of smart classes, e-books and online education, it has become easy to understand the theoretical concept and pursue higher education. The smart classes provide tools and content for interactive self-paced learning guided by teachers. The audio-visual stimulation coupled with freedom to manipulate and modify the lessons as per individual needs paves way for an easy learning and understanding. Those who are working or can't pursue regular classroom study, technology is a boon for them. In fact, there are many online management courses also that are now recognised and even accepted by the MNCs etc. With the advent of online delivery of lectures and live chat sessions, students find themselves in a comfort zone while interacting with the teachers available online. The students feel easy to communicate their doubts. So, technology has opened many options for the students today.

Dr Devi Singh
Director, IIM-L

The advancement of technology in education has taken place with a rapid pace. And when it comes to medical education, advancement took place mainly during the past 100 years. The technologies in the medical field are evolving very fast; doubling almost every 3 years, putting tremendous pressure and challenges. Various technologies like tele-medicine, net-working and internet have become part of day-to-day life of the medical fraternity with the distinct advantages for e-learning, teaching and communication. Though the new advancements are not free from risks and disadvantages, yet students are depending more on computers and internet information rather than to be attentive in classrooms. The attendance is already depleting in didactic lectures. And this is a serious matter. But then, newer technologies help to modify the teaching methods to involve the students to register the information. For instance, the use of instrumental technology offers alternative options to the students and faculty of the teaching institutions, in absence of the facilities available at many places. Technology only helps to keep pace with development and progress for the benefit of the students.

Prof DK Gupta
Vice-Chancellor
CSMMU



Technology today has revolutionised the way the learning. It has enhanced the grasping power and given a wider reach to access the knowledge worldwide. From smart classes to video conferencing, online lectures to online courses, there are host of benefits of staying connected with the technology. Not only it has helped to make the learning process simpler and fun loving, it has also introduced students to thrilling, exciting and amazing way of learning, preparing notes and completing their assignments. The role of information technology is expanding day by day. In the age of e-learning, the student community aims to exchange ideas on innovative teaching and learning suggestions. Online brainstorming session helps to overcome challenges and share their learning experiences. By blending technology in education, one can witness a dramatic change in the pattern of education delivered to students. Besides enhancing the multi-sensory learning in classrooms, it also helps to improve the academic performance of students and enable an instant assessment of learning outcomes in the class. It also gives a break to the teaching faculty, who otherwise, rely on traditional way of teaching the students via chalk and blackboard method. Indeed, with technology spreading its tentacles, the books are replaced by e-notebooks, graphs and charts are replaced by graphics, animations, 3 D images and video clips and many more.

BK Mahindroo
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Kripa Shanker
Vice Chancellor,
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Information Technology has altered the way we live, think, behave and interact with each other. It has brought in an era called 'Knowledge Era' inhabited by 'Knowledge workers'. Familiarisation with IT is imperative in the pursuit of learning/knowledge and power of the connected and enlightened world community is beginning to unveil. Access and universality of IT have far-reaching consequences for the governments worldwide in their endeavour to bridge the gap - called the 'Digital Divide' - between people who have and who do not have access or capability in the use of IT. It aids plenty of resources to enhance the teaching skills and learning ability. In the age of computers and internet the pace of imparting knowledge is very fast and one can be educated anywhere anytime. Findings suggest the value of audio-visuals in the educational process. Integration of IT in teaching improves its quality, makes it more effective and helps in getting an employment. Internet supports thousands of different kinds of operational and experimental services, one of which is online library. Education through distance learning has taken unprecedented expansion aided by communication technology. It has brought drastic changes in the life of disabled children. It provides various software and technique to educate these people.



I firmly believe that in today's world, the growing importance of technology in education cannot be denied. In fact, it is the technology that drives the scientific research and education. Being a scientist, I dream to see Banaras Hindu University (BHU), as a resource centre of scientists working in cohesion and collaborative environment with all technological facilities. I want to develop a centralised research facility to conduct various scientific researches at one place with multidisciplinary collaboration approach so that no worthwhile idea goes waste. Today, technology is very expensive, hence the idea is that people from different fields of science can use the centralised research facilities for a prosperous future. Right from the schools to the institutional level, technology has brought about a huge transformation in the education system that exists today. Gone are the days when teachers depended on the conventional ways of teaching. With video conferencing, online chatting and so on, it has become the fastest mode of delivering lectures. It provides a common platform for students and teachers alike to discuss on a common topic.

Dr. Lalji Singh,
Vice Chancellor of Banaras Hindu
University (BHU), Varanasi

In the digitized age, the uses of digital technology are unlimited. Let us start with the use of this technology within the classroom. The Power Point Presentation (PPP) makes the lecture interesting, easy to understand and available to the student 24x7. In fact, many books, particularly published in the U.S.A and the U.K come with the PPP already prepared for the teacher. Thus teachers across the globe using such a book can use the PPP during the lecture. Further, online tests can be conducted for continuous assessment of the student. Many dictionaries come with the CD and it becomes easier for a student to assess a word from the CD.

In addition, with the invention of video-conferencing, it has become very easy for a lecture to be telecast across cities and countries. This has a great utility and potential for distance learning, which can have the same content for a large number of students. This can also reduce the isolation of a student learning through the distance mode. Now we have online versions of several books available. So if a library subscribes to an online edition of a book, several students and faculty can access the same book at the same time. Finally, The digital board has all the features of a PC or laptop but has a bigger size of a blackboard and therefore it can make the classroom more interactive.

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WITH INPUTS FROM SAHITA SINGH, NEHA ARORA AND SONAM MATHUR