21ST CENTURY EDUCATION: IMPACTS OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

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Technology has always blossomed for mankind’s gain. It has improved people's lives through different fields such as medicine, work, education and industry, especially education. It elevated most of its aspects and greatly changed the teaching-and-learning process through different kinds of materials, textbooks and the internet.

During the early times, through the development of the printing press, technology made a great impact of education. It allowed students to use textbooks made by their teachers, or in those times, philosophers. Until now, the upgraded version of the printing press is still being used, not only in textbooks but also to many reading materials. The prevalence of technology today has changed the way students see education. In just a click, they can now easily find the answers to the most difficult questions. No longer do they need to go to different libraries to read tons of books to gather information. Moreover, materials such as videos and 3D pictures helped them in visualizing the actual picture only described by a textbook. But the advancement doesn’t stop there. Technology has expanded the learning process outside the four-corners of the classroom. Nowadays, the trend is the virtual schools. According to Friedman (2019), online education encompasses a tremendous number of topics, subject areas, disciplines and degree programs. In the broadest terms, it is obtaining knowledge through the use of instruction provided via the internet – this is more on pedagogical rather than self-selected. The Department of Education also made steps in improving the classroom setting. Google Classroom is now being implemented in selected schools for testing; this is a great leap for the educational system. Lynch (2018) stated that since students today are digital
natives, they are more comfortable in using such and will be more apt to take ownership in their own learning. Thus, the hindrances to education is somehow streamlined with these developments.

Students are not the only ones who were catered by technology. Teachers also benefitted in the advancement of technology. Or did they? Technology has allowed for both an easier and more complicated way of dealing things inside the classroom. Truly, it has been a great ally in enforcing an effective way of teaching to the students. On the other hand, to be able to use technology, a teacher must first learn the how to manipulate it before using it effectively. This has been the downfall to many seasoned teachers, not only do they no longer feel using it, but also, they deter from trying, simply because of the physical incapability they have already endured. However, to the younger generation of teachers, who are used to these advances, it is easier to manipulate and integrate these to the classroom setting. This is an advantage to the younger ones and a great assistance to the seasoned ones. Together, technology can be fully maximized for the betterment of the teaching and learning process.

At the very heart of all this, technology is one among many keys to unlock our progressive future. It may have some shortcomings at some point, but the totality of its advantages overpowers such. David Warlick, as mentioned by Thakur (2018), stated that technology is needed in every classroom, by every student and teacher because in our time, it is the pen and paper, and the lens that lets us experience the much of our world. As we keep pace with these advancements, let us continue making the best of what technology has to offer.
References:

