EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY : BOON OR VANE?

by:
Delson C. Perez

Few would argue that the state of our basic education system has plenty of room for improvement. The first challenge lies in identifying underlying problems keeping students from learning today, his challenge, in part, is due to the fact that the problems may change considerably depending on who is labelling them, whether if it is students, parents, educators, or lawmakers and for me, as one of those persons involved in the world of education today. TECHNOLOGY is one of the most pressing issues that we can consider in the basic education system.

It is obvious that students nowadays are more technologically advance than many teachers, putting instructors at a decided disadvantage in the classroom. However, students’ good command in technology also tends to distract them from their schoolwork. When teachers don’t have the techno-savvy to compete with those devices, it can be difficult to keep students interest and attention to properly teach new concepts. Furthermore, technology transforms learners into inefficient learners. They rely completely on computers that create poor study habits. Many students keep browsing websites to find the shortest possible way to answer their questions instead of answering them in traditional way that actually helps them to gain in-depth knowledge of the subjects. Even spell-checkers prevents them from learning the correct spelling of the words. Moreover, technology increase the rate of cyber bullying wherein youngsters fall under the trap and illegal crimes without their knowledge. The young learners have an easy access to umpteen accounts that tends them to enter into harassment. They lost their future, which could have given miraculous results and cultivated properly but with cyber bullying, everything gets washed of all of a sudden. In addition to these, since technology needs to come into the classroom to keep up with the learning demands of the 21st
century, schools that are already cash-strapped may find insurmountable challenge in coming up with the funding to bring computers and other forms of technology into their classes. Really, days where students have to depend on paper and pen is alone. Machine like computers substituted the use of paper with its high-tech features and to maintain them, a huge sum of money is required by schools which can otherwise be spent to buy necessary resources and updating the outdated software have to spend a large fund as well.

Problems in basic education regarding the use of technology keeps on growing possibly because of lack of strict policy and guidelines on the integration of it in our curriculum or there is an existing policies but wide dissemination of it is not addressed properly resulting the schools incapability to control the invading aspects of technology among learners or the curriculum itself. Since we cannot really change the fact that technology is everywhere and the world is changing so fast getting more advancement each day and it covers a lot in the system of education. What we need to do is to think of solutions on how technology will not be a total hindrance on the genuine learning of our students, will not be a competitor of teachers and not be a pocket-burden to the schools or the people involved in the school funds.

Now the question is what specific solutions we can do about it. Well for me, the very first thing to do is for the schools to set technology-related policies wherein the implementation of it should be in a very strict manner. Another thing is that, teachers should also be innovative and resourceful enough to look for different activities and approaches that they can use to catch students’ interest and attention towards active learning and deviate them from too much exposure of technology while empowering collaborative learning and when the use of computers will be lessen. The fund will not suffer too much but the assurance of effective and efficient learning will remain. With these argues, still, we should always bear in mind, if we use technology right. It could
give us power and privacy and the whole idea is not about the choice whether to use it or not, but how to use it right.

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