EFFECTS OF TECHNOLOGY ON READING

by:
Richard Alboro, MAEd
Master Teacher II, Cabcaben Elementary School

The Reading Association of the Philippines (RAP) 2006, states that Reading is a process involving word recognition leading to the development of comprehension, fluency, and motivation. It is making meaning from prints.

It has been noticed that children’s interest in reading is dwindling at present. They would rather play video games or be engaged in other forms and use of technology. The challenge of Information and Technology to education is multifaceted. One facet is on learning involving the ultimate goals of education. It goes that reading and technology are two inseparable aspects of learning. One notion is that when a student is good at reading, he can adjust and learn technology easily and vice versa.

The ICT generation will certainly enjoy a Reading class where the teacher utilizes different forms of technology lifted from the Internet as a strategy in making the students learn reading. One example of this strategy is the learning of vocabulary through games.

Technology appears to make learning reading easier, however, there appear to be some emerging negative games that get the attention of students. Instead of striving to read stories for children, their attention is focused on some video games which are not good at learning reading.

There is also the danger of developing anti-social behavior especially in communication and relationships; instead of talking with the family or with other friends and classmates, their attention is only focused on the computer use. The reading aspects of their studies are put at stake. Try to observe in the school campus for instance. You will not be surprised if 6 out of ten students are indulging with their computers playing video games.
However, students and teachers must also be aware of the big advantage of ICT in their reading. It can save speed, time and money since it is much quicker to send or share information and reading materials.

Nowadays the rule of the thumb, is that technology makes reading easier because of the availability of reading materials, reading instruction, and word meanings, therefore it will make life easier.

Reference:

Reading Association of the Philippines (RAP) Reading Aloud, Silent Reading 2006, Manila