INFLUENCE OF TECHNOLOGY IN DISTANCE LEARNING

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According to David Wood, “technology is the use of scientific knowledge for applied purposes or applications, whether in industry or in everyday lives.” Thus, technology usually encompasses a specific piece of equipment, but the equipment can be incredibly simply or dazzlingly complex (Abroni, 2012). Positively, technology has invaded almost all aspects of human life, the most evident of which is in the field of communication.

The most communal technology tools used in communication today are e-mails, faxes, mobile phone, texting services, video conferences, video chat rooms and social media channels. Moreover, technology has made teaching so simple, with the introduction of video conferencing, via zoom and google meet. Furthermore, due to the initiation of technology via social networking sites, it is used in human relationship for people get connected while at work using social networking technology.

However, application of technology are very substantial and notable whereas it made a very big chance in the field of education with the invention of gadgets, online learning sites, and mobiles apps or applications which help students learn easily. Nowadays, one can access a full library via a mobile app on any smart phone or iPod. Before the presence of these technologies, student had to go to school or national libraries to get the information needed but now, students can surf the net with the help of search engines or social media sites. Technology supports students research on subjects, share ideas and learn specific skills. Technology also helps students make valuable networking connections with others in a field of study.
Hassan B. Ndahi (1999) cited that the influence of technology on teaching and learning is becoming more and more evident in educational institutions. However, distance learning denotes to the teaching and learning situation in which the teachers and learner are engaging in interactive instructional settings when they are separated geographically and by time and place. Distance learning has two main goal; (a) providing quality education through reasonable access to any form of learning and (b) meeting the unique learning needs and styles of individuals (Barron, 1994).

Furthermore, some teachers depend on an electronic device like tablet, computer, laptop or mobile devices to communicate with the student in the midst of COVID–19 Pandemic. The problem is not all students can keep up with the rapid changing technology tools. Moreover, students play games on their tablets or phones instead of obeying and paying attention to the lesson that the teacher is discussing in front of the class. In addition, instead of student’s attention being captured, they get bored because some teachers seemingly use these instruction technologies the same way the traditional instructional materials are used.

References:

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