INTEGRATION OF TECHNOLOGY TO EDUCATION: TOOL FOR TODAY’S TEACHERS

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It would not be surprising to see an educator today to use modern methods of teaching using the products of centuries of technological innovations. The most notable, for instance, is the use of digital technology that is incorporated especially during lectures and discussions. There are more to technology than what is mentioned above but the impact to learning is still quite new since the technologies predominantly present have only been available for just a few generations ago to most of the world.

For most of the world’s history, the education system has been static for centuries. The teacher teaches, the students listen, but is learning present or just mere attempt to remember and grasp the complex idea or lesson being taught by the teacher? It is essential to learning that the learner not only just have the ability to recall information but rather be able to use information as the basis for understanding concepts and associate ideas and information from another. And having a visual representation of ideas—which a slide presentation can provide with ease—could be helpful for achieving understanding because it takes only basic cognitive abilities to decode figures, photos, videos and other multimedia since these do not necessarily require high level of communicative skills. These help the teacher to create a much more interactive exchange of ideas—the digital media provides information, then the student gives feedback, while the teacher also gives feedback to the student’s feedback and helps fill the gaps in the student’s ideas that will trickle down into a simplified and faster way of learning since the learning is personal and not just a borrowed idea from the manual of the teacher.
Technology can help us do tasks in wide array of means, but arguably, one of the most useful tools the digital age provided the educators presently is the electronic recording system. In the Philippines, teachers are prominently known to have their ‘class records’ documented on paper which are compiled into a book-like record. In a regular basis, teachers have to write down basically every academic activity done during the lesson proper—all the quizzes, periodic examinations, monthly evaluations, even homework scores—just to keep track of dozens of students. It does not end there because in every quarter, all the logged records must be manually computed to create a statistical representation of the learner’s performance and using a calculator back then was the trend. But times have changed because now, teachers can keep track digitally by encoding them into the standardized electronic system and it is then automatically calculated which means making a quarterly report is much more stress-free than tediously tapping on a calculator.

During the boom of the internet, it is not much thought of as becoming a tool for revolutionizing learning and education. Back then it was basically solely used for communication as a product of the United States Department of Defense that was used to transmit and deliver information from one computer to another. Starting the new century, it has gained traction to become available quickly for a lot of people and still not mainly for education but as a form of entertainment, then as it becomes accessible to as much as half of the global population, the educational content grew exponentially and thus shaping gradually the way of traditional teaching in much of the world’s countries. It has basically become the new library for the generations adjacent and subsequent to its accessibility.

As the internet’s popularity arise steadily, its use for mundane daily activities become much more ‘normal’ and as it takes huge roles in the lives of people in all walks of life it is not surprising
to see also the rise of information giants such as Google or community-based data and information website organization such as Wikipedia that provides access to a myriad scholastic articles that many students, educators, and scholars alike use.

These are only the few options technology can provide the educators and the learners of today, although its potential as a tool for education has not yet been harnessed fully and still needs quite an effort to discern what methods are the most effective and appropriate, and whether it creates distractions when used improperly. That is why its continuous improvement means more than the future of education and if these current technologies can be utilized to improve the existing ones then it means also the improvement of the current system of education, which in the end, substantially impacts how the learners of tomorrow learn by how conducive the teachers or today teach.

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