TELEVISION AS EDUCATIONAL TOOL

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Educational tools and technology enable students to develop effective self-directive learning skills. Or presenting of some recognizable chunk of knowledge. But real learning comes from absorbing bits of the world, playing around with it, making connections. Connections that perhaps no one has ever noticed before.

How are fiction books educational? How is a Shakespeare play educational? What about a basketball game, a walk in the woods, volunteering at an animal shelter, music, doing yoga, zumba, visiting grandparents?

All might have bits that look traditionally educational. But all are full of potential connections for a child’s learning.

How is a television show different from a play? It is just another form of storytelling.

Books can let us look inside a character. TV cannot do that. But books cannot show us what walking was like in Elizabethan clothing, how a Cockney accent sounds, or what alien societies might look like.

For a visual learner, visuals are as important to them as words are to someone who learns best by reading.

Absolutely, Books can offer greater details that would be boring to present visually. But Television documentary can offer a much richer visual and audio experience than books can. It is just popular snobbery to say books are superior to TV.
Television can be educational unless: it is properly introduced to help the learner in understanding the significance of the learning segment and learning outcomes; it can accelerate one's learning of a subject or set of subject, by virtue of its live audio/video sensory impressions; it can add fresh inputs to what the learner is learning from books; it expands one's perspectives by drawing on a diversity of perspectives, especially from around the globe; it is adequately facilitated with follow-up group discussions among the learners; it is properly structured with post-watch briefing and summary, led by the facilitator; it's fun, entertaining and engaging the learners!

As a matter of fact, the Department of Education (DepEd) determined to strengthen education delivery through television, whether it is through commercial broadcast TV networks, free channels, government-owned TV stations, and even cable TV networks.

Since face-to-face classes are still prohibited, DepEd secured an ally in the national Telecommunication Commission (NTC) to support television based learning delivery as dedication to widening the access to education despite the pandemic.

References:


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