USING VS. INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY IN CLASSROOM TEACHING?

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Technology in the hands of teacher is revolutionizing, you can hear it in some seminars about ICT integration in classroom teaching but some teachers misinterpret what it really means. When it comes to technology in classroom teaching, using is different from integrating. For some it is simply using projector, monitor, speaker and laptop to present their lesson. But for someone knowledgeable enough in the new trend and effective use of ICT tools in classroom teaching, integrating technology has a great means and using is just a part of it.

If you check your dictionaries, using means applying, employing or exercising. It is just like teacher projecting the lesson for the student to copy what is written in the power point presentation, and nothing else. Using technology in the classroom means using the tools to make the work of the teacher and student more convenient. How about integrating? Integrate means to combine or to blend. In technology integration, teachers know how and advent of technology is blended together. Technology integration in classroom teaching is teacher’s lesson, pedagogy and technology were combined. It is not simply teacher presenting the lesson in a power point presentation instead of writing in the blackboard. It is making a topic livelier and engaging the student through the advent of technology. For example, instead of teacher making a matching type activity in the blackboard or in manila paper the teacher can make it more engaging and attractive with the use of a power point presentation. Another example is, instead that the teacher just simply explain what is a vertebrate animal’s, teacher make a power point presentation, insert some videos and pictures of the topic, and clarify the understanding of students after. So what is now the difference of using
from integrating technology in the classroom? Using and integrating technology in the classroom were related but differ in some manners. When you say use, it is only referring for someone applying some tools to accomplish the work easier, while integrate is to blend the tools with the ideas or something to produce a reasonable outcome. Using technology in the classroom is using the device alone for the convenient purposes like teachers letting students watch video tutorials and make no clarification at all. It is the tool that who makes the learning for student, which is not right because machine is a tool that cannot evaluate reason and understanding of student. Technology in the classroom on the other hand is the teacher’s effort to make the lesson more interactive and engaging through the use of technology. Integration of technology means teacher making the tools supplement to enrich the teaching and learning experience inside the classroom. In technology integration teacher is not only an observer but act as a facilitator and guide the students through the learning process.

Integrating technology in the classroom is not simply using the device alone. It is teacher’s effort, lesson, and pedagogy combined with technology to make teaching and learning experience more interactive and engaging to the students. In technology integration teachers are the main character and only supplemented by technology. Technology cannot work alone but teachers can. The successful implementation of technology depends on teacher’s knowledge and capability. With technology plus teacher know how, quality learning and real life experiences for students were possible. We can make it, together let’s make the 21st century learning experience more fun.

Reference: