AMALGAMATION OF TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY: IN THE LIGHT OF B.ED. CURRICULUM

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ABSTRACT

Technology has become an inseparable part of our lifestyles in today's world. One cannot imagine even a slightest movement or change in one's life without the assistance from technology. Be it defence, science, medicine or the simple day to day interactions, we have almost turned dependent upon technology. The paper seeks to gauge the relevance of technology in the field of teacher education and particularly in the curriculum of educational psychology. Psychology, like technology is an ever evolving field. Based upon humans and human nature, it is a discipline that is very dynamic and in order to make it relevant for the 21st century learner, it is important that technology be amalgamated with it. This would not only make the discipline more interesting but at the same time yield better results, both academically and practically. The paper makes an attempt to list out certain ways in which this can be done effectively in an educational psychology classroom, taking instances from the two year B.Ed curriculum. Special reference to the B.Ed. curriculum has been made as it sees psychology in its applied form. The theories of learning, development, cognition and growth are not only studied bt are actually seen in context of the real life learners. This makes educational psychology a more needed and relevant course. And utilization of technology in the teaching learning practice of the same is the need of the hour.

KEYWORDS: technology, educational psychology.

Introduction

Technology is the wave of the future.' One cannot deny this fact. Technology is something that has taken the role of the lifeline of development in every field. Be it science, defence, medicine or academics, role of technology has become inevitable. In the twenty first century, the learners are already well equipped with use of technology in the form of internet, social media and networking. So in order for the teachers to take them a level higher, it is imperative for them to involve use of technology in their classroom discussions. This can be fruitful only when student teachers are given exposure and ideas of making use of technology in their educational psychology curriculum.

By definition, technology can involve Hardware (i.e., laptop or desktop computers), Software (i.e., word processing, presentation), Portable handheld devices (i.e., audio/video players, digital books, smart phones), Web connections (i.e., online course, course-management systems, social networks). (Dunn, Wilson, Freeman, Stowell, 2011).

Students can be encouraged to make use of their email accounts or social networking profiles or text messages to stay in touch with their educators as well as their classmates and at the same time receiving and sending their home works and assignments. These techniques tend to seem interesting to students as well and hence they respond quite well to them.

Technology and learning:

Technology not only makes the educational content interesting but at the same time motivates the learners. It helps to benefit teaching and learning, helping educators to explore and use variety of tools to make a regular and monotonous topic interesting. Usage of internet and e learning help the students to have an access to virtual learning. Online courses and distance education can also be attained making use of technology. Thus providing education to people and learners who are not able to have direct access to education is an added benefit of technology when used in the domain of education. Students these days are quite well versed with usage of technology and this in turn helped to develop and promote its usage in field of education.

Here is a small sliver of the advantages we gain from using technology to educate people.

Future: The world is moving towards technology at a breakneck pace. Technology will be used in every aspect of the professional lives of current students. Why not use it daily in school?

Mobile: Using technology the classroom can be taken anywhere. Mobile technology allows for greater collaboration between students promoting strong foundations in group work.

Motivation: Technology tracks and reports student's progress instantly. Students who use technology are motivated to improve performance.

Assessments: Assessing students' performance can be done instantly with technology. A classroom could be questioned with a multiple-choice problem. Students could then input their answer and the feedback score is instantly given to the student and teacher. Corrections can be made long before examinations.

Psychology and technology

Being educators, we are well versed with the idea of continuously evolving and developing concept of psychology. Psychology involves study of humans and human nature. And this makes it dynamic. The content, the conditions as well as the usage of the discipline is changing and in order to keep ourselves and our students abreast with the changes, we need to attend and inculcate them within the discipline. The major change that is taking place in our society is the development and amalgamation of technology in each and every field. So how can one deprive psychology and its pedagogy from the development?

Psychology as a discipline has been on immense interest to most of its students. The theories, the concepts, the understanding of human nature and mind have kept its learners keen to know and learn more about it. As mentioned earlier, psychology is ever evolving as a discipline and most of the developments that take place across the world is through the researches in the field. The most widespread, reliable and recent way to stay aware of the latest researches is through internet. Hence, one cannot deny the use of technology in order to stay connected to various aspects of psychology.

When talking about educational psychology, in particular, we deal with the application of the discipline of psychology in the field of education. This involves various learning and developmental theories, aspects of motivation, intelligence, varying psychological needs of learners according to age and the like. Prospective teachers can quite easily relate to these provided that the content is taken from their domain of knowledge and experience and then taken further. In today's scenario, technology and its usage has developed to make the world revolve around itself. Most of the student teachers are quite well equipped with it so much so that most of their daily routines involves engagement with it in various forms. Hence, bringing it into the curriculum in one form or the other will prove beneficial to both learners as well as teachers.

Further, in a teacher education program, the objective remains to equip the future teachers with everything that caters to the needs and requirements of a 21st century learner. As has been already mentioned, the developing world is progressing towards becoming techno savvy at a pace we hardly can imagine. So in order to enable our forthcoming educators not to feel left behind and indulge in collaborating technology with learning, we should make an attempt towards amalgamating educational psychology course in a teacher education program with technology, so that they can feel confident and capable enough to transact the same in the school scenario.

How can we inculcate technology in psychology curriculum?

Having talked about technology, its relevance and need in curriculum of psychology in a teacher education program, it is important to have a look to the ways in which this can be implemented. There are several ways in which pedagogy of educational psychology can include technology. Some of them are mentioned below:

Texting

Since the birth of modern psychology, popular methods of communication have influenced psychotherapy sessions. As more people use texting and mobile devices to communicate, rather than relying on the client's memory of an interaction, the client and therapist together can look at what was actually said during the interaction.

Analysing the same in the context of educational psychology, the teacher educators can easily adopt the method. Use of various mobile applications like whatsapp, viber can be made to extend the teaching learning of psychology beyond the classrooms. Groups can be created on these applications including the students as well as teacher educators as members. Students can be divided into groups either as a whole class or in various smaller groups. The teacher educator can then assign group projects or presentations to these groups which can be discussed beyond classroom boundaries and can be brought to the class discussions on their completions. The idea of understanding learners in their socio economic context in the course of 'childhood and growing up' can be dealt in this manner. The groups of students can come back to the class after accomplishing their assigned work in virtual groups and present their findings relating them to the theories already studied.

Computerized Testing

Student teachers can be encouraged to experience various online psychological tests for assessing their level of motivation, anxiety, depression, self-esteem and the like. Once they get an on hand experience on them, these tests can be used by them to work on analysing these variables among various school students in order to gauge the differences in growing up according to the gender, class, area in which the child lives and the like.

Power point presentations and slide shows

One of the most used and appreciated way to bring technology into a classroom is making a power point presentation to the class. The same can be incorporated into an educational psychology classroom. Student teachers can be encouraged to make such presentations on various developmental or motivational theories to their class. It could even be an assignment on which assessment can be done.

Another similar way of blending technology in educational psychology is through the slide shows of pictures/images. Various pictures could be presented to the class and discussions could follow relating to the concepts already dealt with. Pictures could be of news clippings or newspaper articles for instance depicting the issues faced during adolescence in various cities. This could be taken forward by student teachers as to what would they do as psychology students, if they experience a similar situation in their classroom.

You tube videos

You tube videos are quite common among people, especially youngsters these days. The same can be utilized as a teaching learning material in an educational psychology classroom. The teacher educator can play videos related to various theories of psychology or concepts of statistics. The videos depicting a concept in a context can aid learning as well as understanding of the student teachers.

Movie screening

Movies are entertaining and intriguing source of learning. This can be implemented in a psychology class wherein various movies or documentaries can be screened for the prospective teachers which they can relate to their own curriculum as well as can use as a teaching learning material in their classes.

Counselling and Career guidance

Providing counselling is a very important task for a psychology teacher in school. This makes it imperative for teacher education program to equip them with the necessary details and practices. Video conferencing, voice chatting or simply chatting through emails or messengers can be used. The student teachers can get taste of it while practicing this amongst themselves in groups or with their teacher educator. This would not only save time during regular college hours and but also ensure privacy of the client.

Similar can be the case with providing career guidance to the students. Student teachers can get involved with various group of students from nearby schools and assist them in selecting the careers appropriate according to their interests. This should be done only after discussing about career guidance, its characteristics and implementation with them. They can even record the sessions or show the history of text/mails without revealing the identity of the client, which can be taken further through classrooms discussions.

Conclusion

Educational psychology is an ever evolving field of study. Not including technology in the pedagogy of educational psychology is analogous to walking bare footed in a market of footwear. In order to achieve the aim of developing our education system in general and psychological contents in particular, one cannot help but include technology as an essential part of the teacher education curriculum, be it as pedagogy or assessment.

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