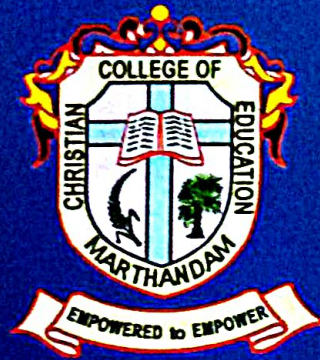# A NEW VISION: SMART EDUCATION AND E-LEARNING

(A Peer-reviewed Research Papers of
the Second International Conference of Teacher Educators)

Christian College of Education
Marthandam, Kanniyakumari District, Tamilnadu.

in co-ordination with

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Contents

PROVIDING A CONDUCIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT TO PROMOTE E- LEARNING: THE ROLE OF TEACHERS

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ABSTRACT

Classroom is one of the major aspects of modern education. It refers to essential materials provision of the classroom; the building, the desks and chairs; blackboard etc. Earlier we had to go in search of libraries, books, magazines, newspapers, our teachers etc., for information, but now information is available at just a click sitting in one place. The role of the teacher in the educational system is recognized everywhere and at all levels. The quality of the school, good or bad is reflected by the environment of the school. New and innovative teaching-learning processes can be developed and implemented only through conducive school environment. Conditions of school facilities have an important impact on student performance. Conceptual learning needs an environment which requires rich resources and good classroom climate. For that, the teachers have to play the role of resource generators. They should promote innovation and encourage innovative learning technologies like e-learning. If used effectively, e-learning can reach education to a large constituency. To be able to compete in the knowledge based economy of the 21st century, we need a paradigm shift in our present system of teaching and learning.

Introduction

Education technologists and academic computing pupil follow advanced pedagogy via technology. The role of education is the important factor for the development of a nation. It is only education through which the change on a grant scale in the society can be

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achieved. Technologies are transforming classrooms into more engaging, collaborative and productive learning environments in which instructions can be customized to students' specific needs, interest and learning styles. Nowadays newer forms of technologies like Language Laboratory, Computer Assisted Instruction, Information and Communication Technology, Web based Learning / Virtual Education, Electronic Learning /e-learning, Multimedia Package, EDUSAT, Smart Classes and Digital Library are developed and implemented to promote learning.

Educational institutions are trying to adapt themselves to the changes in the teaching learning environment that are placing heavier demands on teachers in terms of greater responsibility and accountability. Teacher preparation is critical to every system of education, particularly at the school stage. Moreover teachers have to provide a conducive learning environment to promote learning.

School Environment

"School Environment" has been defined in numerous ways. Dave (1963) defined educational environment as "the conditions, processes and psychological stimuli which affect the educational achievement of the child". It refers to those forces in the environment learner which have the potentiality to contribute to academic development of the learner. School environment implies "a measure of the quality and quantity of the cognitive creative and social support that has been available to the subjects during their school life in terms of teacher-pupil interaction" (Devi, 2003).

School environment is based on patterns of school life experiences and reflects norms, goals, values, interpersonal relationships, teaching, learning and leadership practices and organizational structures. A sustainable positive school environment fosters youth development and satisfying life in a democratic society. This environment includes norms, values and expectations that support people feeling socially, emotionally and physically safe. Here the students, parents, society

and educators work together to develop the entire school system (Khatoon & Konwar, 2014).

Better the school environment, better will be the functioning of the school. In an unsuitable environment or opposing environment, the possibility of going in opposite direction becomes prominent. The quality of the school- good or bad is reflected by the environment of the school (Latha & Gomathi, 2014).

E- Learning Technologies

In this technological era, learning is a process of discovery. Learners are expecting new kind of teaching methods. The learners' expectations can be satisfied with innovative educational ideas along with innovative implementation of new technologies and methods. This technological method of teaching would create interest in learning among students rather than the traditional lecture method. E-learning is one of the innovative learning technologies that can be adopted in the school (Pankajam, 2013).

The term "e-learning" is ambiguous to within its diverse disciplines. It has different meanings to different people. E-learning is used to define a specific mode to attend a course or programmes of study where the students rarely or never meet face - to- face, nor access on-campus educational facilities, because they study online (Bharathi et al, 2009).

Abbreviations like CBT (Computer Based Training) IBT (Internet Based Training) or WBT (Web Based Training) have been used as synonyms to e-learning. Today one can still find these terms be used, along with variations of e-learning such as E-learning and e-learning.

E-Learning comprises all forms of electronically supported learning and teaching. The information and communication system, whether networked learning or not, seve as specific media to implement the learning process. The term will still most likely be utilized to reference out-of-classroom and classroom educational experiences via technology, even as advances continue in regard to devices curriculum.

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E-learning is essentially the computer and network-enabled transfer of skills and e-learners applications and processes include Web-Based Learning, Computer-Based Learning, Virtual Education opportunities and digital collaboration, content is delivered via the Internet, Intranet/extranet, audio video tape, satellite TV, and CD-ROM. It can be self-paced or instructor-led and includes media in form of text, image, animation, streaming video and audio (Pankajam, 2013).

Communication technologies such as E-learning or M-learning can be used to enrich, enliven or add variety to learning. E-learning or electronic learning is the use of network technologies to create, foster, deliver, and facilitate learning anywhere and anytime. It makes learning much easier as one need not be present in the classrooms all the time. This type of learning may offer great innovation in the delivery of education, allowing for personalization and customization to student needs (Bharathi et al, 2009).

Role of Teachers

The teacher has a major role in the educational development. Gandhi remarked that "No country can make any progress without good teachers". The role of the teacher in the educational system is recognized everywhere and at all levels. It is universally acknowledged that education can offer solutions to the problem facing society, and thus offer and effective means for social reconstruction. Teachers have a special role to play in such efforts. They play a crucial role in building a great nation. Hence, teacher education becomes a matter of vital concern (Sudharma & Bindu, 2014).

The National policy of Education (1986) has said about the role of teacher, "The students of the teacher reflect the socio-cultural methods of a society; it is said that no people can rise above the level of its teacher. The government and the community should endeavour to create condition, which will help, motivate and inspire teachers on constructive and creative line. Teachers should have the freedom to innovate to the needs and capabilities and the concerns of the community" (Jayanthimony, 2005).

New and innovative teaching learning processes can be developed and implemented. Interestingly, teacher assumes a central role and can be an integral part of educational governance (Vidyasagar, 2014). All teachers must receive that preparation for the profession in developing innovative technologies. Teachers should and receive regular training, which will allow them to interporate new developments in their teaching.

An appropriate use of information technologies should be used as a powerful tool in the educational process, but there is a need for the investment in the computer programs, etc., in schools and in the development of teacher's competence. It is of crucial importance to introduce new technology is schools in all countries, rich and poor, so that the gap between the north and the south may be avoided (Loomba, 2008).

Teachers should play an imperative role to promote e-learning technologies in the classroom. Conceptual learning needs an environment which requires rich resources, warm classroom culture and appropriate workload. Teachers have to play the role of resource generators. They can innovate new methods of teaching and learning and should enjoy all freedom to do so in a school environment.

Conclusion

Technology has influenced all the fields. Students are more motivated and benefitted towards these technical systems of education. It is important to develop a quality culture in the field of e-learning and education in general. An interdisciplinary quality research for education and e-learning must be established. If used effectively, e-learning can reach education to a large constituency that would otherwise not have access to it. The technology enabled learning strategies are most effective for individual and group learning styles. Teachers have an important role to play in providing a conducive learning environment to promote innovation and adopting innovative e-learning technologies. To be able to compete in the knowledge based economy of the 21st century, we need a paradigm shift in our present system of teaching and learning.

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