A Study on Use of Smartphones and Tabs in Current Teaching Environment

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1. Introduction

In the current scenario of the world of science and technology it is difficult to think of the schools and colleges without the sources of computers, mobile phones usage and or internet. It is naturally appearing as a reality that students take a lot of help from internet today. With the intellectual use of internet facility and smartphone usage led everyone to a big change in the lifestyle and attitude towards education. Smartphones in association with internet is not only a medium of entertainment: it is also used for learning new things such as extracting latest information and creative ideas that students cannot get only from reading books. It is clear that students get knowledge of all the other spheres of life apart from their course or curriculum. Internet providing a platform to share anything, such that different educational websites are providing all the relevant information to the students in order to help them in their exams, assignments, projects, etc. Internet also helps students in developing interest in subject learning from various sources provided on it such as images, videos, audio files from reliable source. Thus, this research is an attempt to understand and to know the need and importance of technological advancement and the effects of use of smartphones and tabs in teaching-learning environment.

The students who are unable to attend the classes regularly due to some reasons the internet is definitely very useful to them. They can go for online courses and gather information and study to prepare themselves for competitions or for exams. Many tutorials are available on internet as in video lectures from famous faculties can also be downloadable and students watch them on mobile phones or tabs or computers and learn from them in a very easy and cheap way. Several tutorial platforms on internet also provide facility to students to clarify the doubts by asking questions that leads to learn effectively. Students can enhance their knowledge by referring to various websites that provide information on current affairs and other news items relating to world or any specific region. Students on smartphone associated with internet can search and extract information related to history, geography, science, research; new innovations etc. easily and keep its own record.

There are also various websites showing vacancies in the companies as to provide information about jobs. Thus the students can communicate with the companies and also apply for jobs/internships/trainings to their interests. These days all the colleges, universities and or many institutions going online as to take admission to their various programs, so that students can apply to colleges or institutes easily by uploading their details relating to qualifications and work experience on the concerned websites. Currently almost all universities are displaying

student's performance results on their primary websites and thus the students no need to stand in queue to look for the same.

2. Objectives of the Study

1. To know the importance of use of smartphones and tabs in teaching methodology
2. To understand the technological advancements in teaching-learning process
3. To extract the benefits and threats of implementing the use of internet, smartphones and tabs in classroom teaching

3. Research Methodology

The required information is collected from secondary source that was collected from the books, journals, and internet sources on technological advancement in classroom teaching and innovative teaching methodology. The collected data is analyzed by the researcher to inculcate the key findings and to give scope for the further digging into this concern.

4. Relevance of the Study

The innovation in education is however ongoing process as everywhere we need innovations and advancement in order to make things easier and possibly available to all. As if we look mostly 10 years back, the computer and internet facility in classroom were not in common and unusual in several geographical areas and the innovation in education through technological advancements didn't even touched.

Today, current generation pupils are very nearer to technology and digital learning, as they grown up with technology such as the internet, computers, smartphones and tabs. The availability of internet and smartphones are within the reach of student as at every house there is a smartphone in association with internet connection. Today anyone can easily have accessibility to the internet and almost all day to day activities are now digitalized such that the students can easily do update bank accounts, watch YouTube lecture videos, download or access to any lecture at anytime and anywhere, which was previously imaginary and now we can't imagine ourselves without the smartphones, computers and internet.

5. Uses of Mobile Phones and Tabs in Education

- ➢ *There are several indistinct uses of smartphones and tabs in education. Some of the main and foremost important uses are listed below:*

- ➢ Use of Mobile Phones and tabs help students in providing quick data search
- ➢ It is also useful for the students in making notes and keeping key points saved and research about the same
- ➢ It makes students extra smart to extract them for their benefits.
- ➢ Students can access the facility of e-books, novels and any sort of material at anytime and anywhere with the help of Tabs with internet connection.

- Smartphones are always ready to use product in education field as today we have many applications relating to documents and can also prepare presentations without any hustle.
- Teachers are now taking the help of smartphone applications to group the students and share any information relating to their course or materials.
- Teachers are also recording their lectures and forwarding to their students as it can be saved and listened anywhere and any number of times.

6. Advantages of Using Smartphones and Tabs in Education

- *Some of the main advantages of using smartphones in education are listed below:*

- Mobile phones are best way of communication also in education as students can communicate with their teachers during exam time or some other emergency reasons regarding education
- Students can access and listen to their classroom via live lecture broadcast streaming with the help of smartphone with internet connection.
- Smartphones are now much likely as our desktop systems that act as a source of dictionary, calculator, filing, storing and referring to many day to day activities.
- Lecturers also get benefited with the use of smartphone and tabs as they can now upload any sort of materials, assignments and test results that are previously a paper work of computer work that takes specific time and place.
- Smartphones are also helpful in communication between teachers and students in case of doubts regarding their previous classes or their academic clarifications.
- Smartphones with internet connectivity is helping the students to browse and extract any sort of information as easier as possible.
- Even the colleges are benefiting with the use of smartphones and tabs as they are now managing the grades, attendance and providing any type of notification to their respective students.
- Students can download e-books, PowerPoint Presentations and any other materials at their fingertips.
- Students can also be connected with the world as they can access read e-newspapers, articles, novels, feeds and develop their vocabulary and reading skills.

7. Negative Effects of using Smartphones and Tabs in Education

- *As with lot of advantages there are also have many disadvantages associated with use of smartphones and tabs in education. Some of them are:*

- Excessive use of these gadgets makes students lazy and uncreative as they are getting things done on their fingertips.
- Students are easily getting distractions from text messages, online games, watching movies and entertainment programs etc.
- While classroom lecture getting a phone calls disturb them and also distract the whole class and teacher.

- Most of the students carry smartphones to their class are playing games, watching videos during lecture, chatting with friends, using social media like facebook, whatsapp, twitter etc. that is keeping students physically present in the class but mentally they are somewhere else.
- At the peak time of studies, they are indulge in the useless activities as everything on their fingertips are easily available and accessible.
- Allowing smartphones and tabs into the classrooms become the source of malpractice during the exams and quizzes as they can easily copy any answers.
- During the classroom lecture, instead of listening to the class and taking notes, some students record teacher's voice and take photos of notes as a reference but later they won't listen to it and even delete.
- Students use shortcuts while typing on smartphones as they are showing it as a creativity but it is a sign of laziness as a result they forget the real spelling of the word and make plenty of grammar mistakes in a formal letters and while writing exams.
- Students use false source of information as it comes from rumors and forward it without verifying as a result it leads to a huge tragedy and ruin the lives of many by vulgarity.
- Students take photos of anyone without their permission, record voices and invade someone's privacy and to disturb teachers during lectures forward that in their groups and or make blank calls.

8. Few Experts' Opinion on Use of Smartphones, Tabs and Internet in Schools and Colleges

- **Danielle Einsein** – Clinical psychologist, honorary associate, University of Sydney, and psychology department, Macquarie University, said "No" to use the smartphones and other technical gadgets in classroom. He said as it has many number of benefits and empower students to learn plenty things in less time and it is future of their own but it is the primary source of copy work that is not a skill that anyone required.
- **Matthew Kearney** - Associate Prof, teacher education program, University of Technology Sydney, said "Yes" to use smartphones and internet in the classroom. Damian Maher - ICT educator said "Yes" to use mobile phones in classroom. Further added mobile phones serve many important functions as it reflects less expensive, easily accessible, attentive, intellectual appearance to the class.
- **Susan Sawayer**– Prof of adolescent health, University of Melbourne, and director, Royal Children's hospital centre for adolescent health, University of Melbourne, said "Yes" to use Mobile phones in classroom teaching methodology. She said the dynamic nature of the mobile world, regularly engaging students and parents in reviewing and revising the policies developed by the schools/colleges on the use of mobile phones at school/college hours.
- **Joanne Orlando** – researcher, technology and learning, Western Sydney University, said "Yes" to use of mobile phones in schools/colleges as it is important to educate students to live will in the era in which they are growing up.

➢ **Damian Maher** – Senior lecturer in education, use of ICT and social media, University of Technology Sydney said "Yes" to use of mobile phones in colleges as mobile phones serve many important functions such as digital literacy, ease in research, communication and more.

9. Key Findings from the Surveys Done in this Domain

➢ *From the survey conducted by the various researchers found some facts and figures about the usage of smartphones tabs and internet in education are listed below:*

➢ 67% of teachers used smartphones and internet to share their ideas with other teaching community.

➢ There are 92% of teachers used the smartphones to extract contents and materials for their teaching purpose.

➢ 67% of teachers used the mobile phones to interact with the parents and 57% are interacted with their students in order to have communication with students and their parents.

➢ 87% of the students agreed that they play games, watch videos and text during lecture hours.

➢ 73% of the students are revealed that they use smartphones during their exams.

➢ 53% of the students agreed that in the college they use smartphones to bully each other.

➢ 20% of the students said that they take pictures and record other people with smartphones as to disturb them and get entertained.

10. Conclusion

The study shows that the students who use internet show increase in cognitive abilities such as memory, spatial and logical problems solving and critical thinking, concentration, abstraction and comprehension skills. One of the important benefits of the use of internet in education is that students can learn from other students by viewing notes, materials and studies through their blogs which in turns get some practical knowledge and it is also a current scenario of learning.

Some of the studies show that almost all college students carry their phones into their classes that is also becoming trend in some schools that can be helpful and however it will be harmful to them in various ways of exploitation.

11. Suggestions

It has observed that there are both benefits and drawbacks were associated with this domain of use of smartphones and tabs in education yet both of them are more in numbers. It is suggested to develop some full proof measures to prevent cons and harmful activities with it to make act more beneficial and teacher friendly as students can use this enormous facility in better and productive way. There is also a scope in further study conduction on this domain by collecting primary sources of information and get the actual and practical solution on disastrous use of smartphones and internet in the field of education.

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