

News

Learning the tech way

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Today's generation can type faster than they can write, absorb content from online videos better than a live classroom lecture and learn more efficiently if allowed their own flexible schedules rather than strict class schedules. Does that mean e-learning will replace classroom education? Though this is a much debated question, what is indisputable is the impact of technology in revolutionising education and career development spheres.

Discussing the latest trends and impact of technology in education, Sanjeev Mansotra, chairman and managing director, Core Projects and Technologies Ltd explains, "The education sector has two components. First component is the delivery of education which includes all the elements that go into the actual classroom teaching to students. Second component is the backend process, what we refer to as the ERP of education, to support the delivery of education which includes managing the institutes' processes and programmes. Technology has provided a major boost to both these aspects of education. The traditional classroom teaching is supplemented by eContent which explains complex concepts to students with interesting graphics and animations. Teachers have started using aids like projectors, smart boards to better explain the hard-spots in the curriculum to the students. The educational institutes have moved towards automating the backend process enhancing the system's efficiency and this has enabled them to produce better output at lesser cost."

Challenges of Technology

While learning is made easier and more convenient with technology related innovations, there is still a long way to go as implementation can be fraught with many challenges. Nikul Shah, president global HR and corporate services, Omnitech InfoSolutions Ltd explains some of these, "The country as a whole is gazing at a variety of techniques to educate children. In the last decade, technology has slowly but surely made deep inroads into the field of education especially in main stream, urban schools. Yet, the lack of well trained, educated teachers in both rural and urban areas is a reason of concern. Tech savvy kids do not know where casual writing ends and formal writing begins. The most disturbing trend emerging out of it is poor formal writing skills. The use and abuse of the internet is another critical area of great concern. Broadband service should not be a luxury. It should become an essential part of the infrastructure of education since it could reduce inequality in a country where huge disparities exist in the diffusion of knowledge.

Mansotra also adds his perspective, "While India is gearing up for technology usage in education, infrastructure availability, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas, is the major deterrent to technology advancement. The implementation of ICT (Information and Communication technology) programmes in public schools will increase the technology share to a large extent. Availability of internet broadband is still a challenge in many areas. In such cases offline solutions can be implemented with scalability to online as and when broadband is available. Majority of areas in the country are facing a power crisis. The green technology devices will help in overcoming the power issues. Though advantages of technology are well accepted, it cannot be looked at as a substitute to the traditional delivery of classroom education. Efforts need to be taken to change this thinking for effective implementation through counseling. Training sessions on computer literacy will increase the acceptability of technology."

Students drive technology

While technology is making its mark felt in the education sphere, many students today are also coming forward with path breaking ideas. Neelabh Barve and Apoorv Kumar, final year engineering students of Shri Ram Institute of Technology, Jabalpur have recently won the Techno Minds competition for emerging IT professionals held by Aptech Computer Education. The duo developed the concept of Inter Cessor, "Many colleges today impart knowledge but are not able to show its practical value to students. With our business concept, we plan to take real life learning to students. It will connect the client community and small business with unique needs to the developer community comprising of students, who will get hands on experience on working with the clients on a project basis. This was real technological learning can take place and students can be more prepared to handle projects." Clearly, students today want to learn in more fun and interactive manner and not just remain parties to a passive learning system. Technology can go a long way in taking this vision forward and impetus from the student community is more than welcomed!