Research Paper Education

Smart Class: Need of An Hour

* Dr.Shikha Seetha

* HOD,Dept of Humanities, VNS Group of Institution, Bhopal (M.P)

ABSTRACT

Technology benefitted us in every aspect of our life right form communication to education. In ancient days students were taught in a gurukul where they were taught by the gurus. This tradition of gurukul has been left behind with the modernized culture. New method of teaching has been introduced which is publicly known as smart class. In this teaching happens through digital instruction materials, 3D animated modules and videos, all the renowned institutions are setting a benchmark for using this concept. Now the students are thrilled at this concept of innovative and interactive learning process. The concept of digitized classroom has not only made the education easy but it gave the students power to enhance their performance. This paper highlights the importance of digitized classrooms and concept of smart classes, their advantages and limitations. It also exhibits characteristics of an effective digital learner as well as teacher.

Keywords :

Introduction

The Smart Class software has revolutionized and brought a complete transformation in the traditional rote methods of learning. The smart class system understands the student's requirement and provides innovative learning solutions using digital instruction material, through the use of projectors, white boards, computers making the learning process engaging for the students and simpler for the teachers. Smart classes can also be called as digital classes. Smart boards are slowly replacing blackboards in the schools. Most of the top institutions are opting for smart classes because students get to learn a lot out of it and it also makes the learning process a pleasurable one. Smart class is a digital initiative, which is rapidly changing the approach and methodology that teachers use to teach and students learn in an innovative manner using Technology. Powered by the world's largest storehouse of digital content planned by the institution's Curriculum, 'Smart class' has brought in technology to substitute the blackboard in the classrooms.

Concept of Smart Class

"Smart Classes", providing education better through presentations and videos. A student can learn better through visualization. All the students may not understand the teaching methodology of a teacher, but can understand by smart classes. This can be seen in case of movies, i.e students remember movies better than the lessons taught in classroom. This type of teaching creates an attention called as interest in them. So e-learning is absolutely better. But this should not be applied to all the topics in every subject, because imagination and visualization and application capability of student regarding the subject may be reduced. So smart classes are better only up to a certain limit. Smart classrooms are very much beneficial in teaching-learning process. We make use of an appeal to audio-visual senses of students in using smart boards. These smart boards are like a computer screen which is finely handled by a teacher and also by students to provide active participation. Some of the benefits of Smart board used inside a classroom are:

1. Appeal to audio-visual senses:

By using smart boards in a classroom, we are appealing to both the audio sense and visual senses of students. Learning in such a way is very effective as the information is strongly embedded in kids mind this way.

2. No wastage of time:

In traditional type of classroom, a lot of time was wasted in drawing diagrams on the black/white boards, whereas in Smart-boards, diagrams are in memory and thus time is utilized more for the active learning part.

No chalk Dust:

Some teachers and even front line students used to suffer from chalk dust getting into their eyes and lungs. This had ill effect on health. Use of smart-board eliminates this health issue.

4. Virtual field trips:

Students are taken virtually to field trips while teaching, say, a teacher is covering a lesson on desert animals, using smart-board, we could give a tour of desert like Sahara or Kalahari to teach this topic.

5 Marker Feature:

Smart board teaching is not 'see-only', we could use special markers to underline or mark an important location while teaching. We can even write on it to make the concept clearer.

6. Inbuilt library:

Smart board have an inbuilt library in it which enables a teacher to have an instant look at it in case of requirement. He/she may not have to scan a real library for this.

7. Active learning:

Smart boards leads to active learning process where both the teacher and the students are involved. This leads to strong reinforcement of information in students. Smart boards have many advantages and every class room should have it for the ease of teaching learning process; only a strong motivation is the basic of any learning process and can be carried out in any situation.

The concept of smart class serves not just as an interactive audio-visual aid, but also makes it easier to understand theoretical concepts in a livelier fashion. Sanjita singh talks to educationists and students to know their views... The digitization of the classrooms is beneficial to teaching as it creates a multi-modal environment where the learners are able to participate and experience the topics. A student said to me during one of my school visits, "I found solar system bor-

ing until my teacher took me there."Moreover, the generation which has grown up on technologies such as Google, Facebook etc there has been a shift in the 'neomillenial' learning style where passive textbook teaching of 'what' has shifted to a more dynamic approach of 'why and how'. Similarly, the teachers also realize the potential of these digital classroom as "the charts, diagrams and props are replaced with beating hearts and animated stories" - something which is far more engaging to students .The techno-visionaries have prophesied that the digital education is the future where the students get personalized learning environment and instantaneous feedback. But the real challenge is to strike a balance where the 'smart classes' do not remain the marketing tool or envisioned as a substitution of teacher. Instead, it should be seamlessly incorporated in the education system where the teacher remains the epicenter and the digital content of the smart classes a method of providing a more multi-dimensional learning. Surabhi Srivastava E-learning support officer, CMS, Lucknow.

Features Of Smart Class

Smart Class Program is a comprehensive solution designed to assist teachers in meeting with their day to day classroom challenges and enhancing student's academic performance with simple, practical and meaningful use of technology. Smart Class provides teachers with instant access to multimedia content and instruction materials mapped exactly to the specific curriculum guidelines for use in class. It also enables teachers to instantly assess and evaluate the learning achieved by their students in class with innovative use of technology. Smart Class helps teachers to ensure that every child in the class is learning, given the wide diversity of learning styles in the classroom. It is also highly efficient in maintaining student's interest and engagement in learning inside the classroom. Smart Class simplifies the problems of teaching abstract curriculum concepts that are difficult for students to visualize or relate to through the provision of three-dimensional, interactive multi-media modules.

The actual SMART classrooms system consists of five main components:

Video projection system – includes a ceiling-mounted projector and a large projection screen in the front of the classroom.

Audio system – includes a specified amount of 2'x2' speakers that are designed to replace the ceiling tiles, which allows for quality sound without invasive speakers taking up valuable space.

Control – a 12'' LCD touch screen is the heart of the control system which operates the components of the system.

Video camera – is similar to the old-style overhead projector, except the professor does not have to use transparency paper only, but can also project a three-dimensional object onto the screen, if required.

Proprietary control software – written by LMG and tailored to the specific needs of the client.

In addition, each classroom is equipped with a VCR, DVD, microphone, wall phone, wireless radio frequency mouse and keyboard, a permanently mounted PC and a laptop port — all key pieces that complete the system.

Building a vision for an institution eLearning

Effective eLearning requires a strong, whole-institution vision built on the belief that ICT can Accelerate, enable, improve and transform student learning opportunities in all key learning areas and phases of learning.

This vision will inform and focus:

- Leadership, planning and decision making
- The provision and use of infrastructure, spaces, resources and curriculum
- The development of workforce capacity.

Characteristics of an effective digital learner

Institutions working towards effective eLearning should consider these characteristics

- demonstrate creativity and intellectual curiosity resulting in enjoyment, fun and resilience.
- exhibit a sense of self, confidence and enjoyment.
- are self directed and can work independently, collaboratively and cooperatively.
- display innovation and entrepreneurship.
- continually develop communication and collaboration skills.
- have developed digital literacy and understand technology operations and concepts.
- have developed digital proficiency to work effectively in-21stCentury environments.
- understand digital citizenship and work on issues and challenges that are real and relevant, that make a difference to them and to others.
- demonstrate accountability and adaptability.
- have developed skills to design, create, share and publish.
- use ICT purposefully to engage in real research.
- explore new ideas and tools in authentic contexts.
- exhibit and exercise the attributes of a lifelong learner :they are a knowledgeable person with deep understanding, a complex thinker, a creative person, an active investigator, an effective communicator, a participant in an interdependent world and a reflective and self-directed learner.

Effective eLearning teachers:

- demonstrate an ongoing commitment to professional knowledge, professional practice, professional relationships and professional values.
- have an understanding of the transformative role of ICT for21stCentury Curriculum design/interpretation, pedagogy and student learning.
- make conscious decisions about student learning based on an understanding of digital learners.
- are lifelong learners who are willing to take risks, fail and explore are as outside his or her expertise.
- employ a variety of methodologies, current learning theories and practices.
- constantly collaborate with colleagues and practicing professionals in order to consolidate understanding and to share and reflect on their learning, wonderings and discoveries.

Effective eLearning institutions feature:

- Leadership and vision, including supportive policy.
- Shared vision for learning and systematic whole institutions plans for how to get there.
- enabling policies and adequate resourcing
- Classrooms fostering peer and tutor support .
- Workforce capability, including digital pedagogy, digital literacy, culture of learning and innovation.
- Commitment to ongoing learning with staff develop digital literacy and digital pedagogy.
- Supportive culture for innovations developed.
- Learning spaces, including physical spaces, virtual spaces and enabling infrastructure.
- Classrooms where technologies are used to empower and engage learners to participate in student- centered, project-based learning.
- Enabling eLearning environments that provide safe and secure access and flexibility.
- Enterprise architecture–supported and maintained including technical support.
  eLearning curriculum, including digital content
- Curriculum, instruction and assessment are clearly aligned and exist to improve student learning opportunities.
- Accessible digital content developed/created by teachers and students for learning and sharing
- e curriculum that is built upon enacted curriculum and a

clear and supported model of instruction
- Learning integrated as multidisciplinary and accessible for all learners.

Conclusion

It is a matter of pride for every student that all the institutions are trying to equip Smart Interactive board, an Overhead Projector, in all a Smart Class. The system makes learning a real life experience so that it lasts in the memory of students. It simulates a virtual laboratory for students to carry out experiments without actually touching any substance at all. It makes learning fun so that students don't find studies something like hectic or long winding. This paper is an attempt to highlight the importance of smart classes and its concept which help students in their overall development. Objective of smart classes is to increase the excitement of education and make it comfortable and understandable,therefore it has to be introduced positively in institutions.

REFERENCES

1. David Tyack and Larry Cuban (2000). Teaching by Machine. Pages 247—254 in The | Jossey-Bass Reader on Technology and Learning. Jossey-Bass Inc., San Francisco. | 2. Richard Marcellus (1998). Using Learning Portfolios to Enhance an Applied Probability | Course. Working paper, presented at 1998 ASEE Conference. | 3. Robert E. Wood (2001). Teaching in a Smart Classroom: Data from One Instructor's | Experiences. camden-www.rutgers.edu/~wood. | 4. http://education.gld.gov.au | 5. http://mobiletoi.timesofindia.com |