



PROS AND CONS OF USING SMART CLASS IN ENGLISH TEACHING AND LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

Innovative and modern technology has brought significant changes in almost every field. Especially while talking about adopting modern technology in classroom teaching. It has revolutionized and brought a complete transformation in the traditional methods of teaching and learning. The concept of digital classroom popularly known as Smart Class helps in teaching through digital instruction material, 3D animated modules and videos proved to be a benchmark in modern era. Now the students are thrilled at the concept of innovative and interactive learning process. This resulted not only in better concept framing and better education but in the level of enhanced performance as well. Digital classroom system understands the requirement of the students and provides them with latest learning solutions through the use of digital instruction material ;use of projectors etc. by making the learning process a pleasurable one. This digital initiative is rapidly changing the age old teaching and learning methodology in a more improved manner.

Key Words: Revolution, Transformation, Digital classroom, Interactive Learning Process, Concept framing, Enhanced- performance.

INTRODUCTION

The concept of our classroom reminds us of a dusty black board and class dust. Our teacher rubbing it again and again and a huge amount of dust falling, teacher is so busy compulsorily stick around the board unable to move around in the classroom and take personal attention of each and every student. Moreover, teacher is finding it difficult to explain abstract concept with limited tools at his disposal. Imagine a science teacher explaining how a DNA replicates a history teacher is teaching a class about Harrappa Civilisation, or a Geography teacher teaching how black mountains are formed. Though the teachers take pains to make the students

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understand, what they get, depends on their own abilities. The students try to listen to the teacher, take notes, read from the text book, and try to visualize how it all happen and remember. At the end of the class, the teacher asks a few random questions, invariably a few hands mostly of the same set of the brightest students. The answers are given and the class comes to an end.

Digital and new generation classroom brings about a complete transformation in teaching and learning process. The teacher of Science, while explaining how a DNA replicates, is able to show the class, a 3D animation of the DNA replication process on a large a large screen. The teacher can explain the fine points of the process zoom into show the relevant visual- effects and can pause wherever she find it necessary. Similarly, the teacher of history shows the class a virtual walk through the Harappa Civilisation showing the relevant parts, step by step as a part of his lesson plan, while a teacher of geography shows a virtual block mountain being formed all with engaging colours, music, sound effects and voices. The teacher gains complete attention and interest of every student in the class. Every student gets a visual input on how it happens and the concepts are well understood.

At the end of the class, teacher displays a set of questions on a large screen. Every student in class gets ready to answer the questions with his personal answering device. Students click the answers, instantly: teachers are able to get the score sheet of every student in class. The teacher ends the class, re-teaching the parts of the lesson that were not well-understood by the students. This results in a faster and accurate understanding of the concepts by the students in the class. It helps in the improving of overall academic performance of the students.

CONCEPT OF SMART CLASS

Right from the beginning, the need for a virtual concept of teaching has been felt, but even after great efforts there has always been a gap. So, there needed an innovative methodology to bridge this gap. Thus, there came into existence of the concept of digital method of teaching as Smart Classrooms.

A Digital Classroom is a traditional teaching space equipped with multimedia components designed to enhance instructions and learning. Most digital classrooms contain the following devices;

- Networked computer complete with monitor, key-board, mouse and other accessories.
- Overhead projectors and screen
- VCR and DVD player.



- i. Control Devices such as switches and remotes.
- ii. Amplifier and classroom speakers.
- iii. Document recorder etc.

The inclusion of these equipments enhances the teaching quality by complementing classroom teaching, engaged learning, making difficult concepts easy, reinforcing knowledge-retention, promoting self-directed learning, improving the academic performance of the students and enabling the teachers to assess and evaluate the learning achieved by the students in class.

ADVANTAGES AND BRIGHT SIDE

The new concept of digital or smart classes has come out with multiple numbers of advantages and as a boon for both, the students and the teachers. The Smart Classes come out with following advantages during the teaching and learning processes;

- More time for interaction in class between the teacher and the student.
- Visuals are easier and more appealing to remember than the age old method of reading page after page.
- Imitation of movies adds more interest.
- More time saving than other methods of teaching.
- Can be used as many times as required what is taught once.
- Suitable for all age groups.
- More adherences to modern technology.
- Learning becomes more retentive for longer period through audio-visuals.
- Direct internet access anytime from the class for improved teaching and learning.
- Free from burden of books and heavy bags.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

As it is said that every coin has a dark side too, the digital classes also have negative side as well. But they can be counted just on finger tips only as compared to its bright side. The disadvantages can be;

- Technical drawbacks
- Costlier device
- It may make the teachers away from brain storming.
- Total dependency may be harmful.



- Difficult for non-technology friendly teachers.
- Lengthy preparation
- Prone to indiscipline in class.
- Deprives from the advantages of reading comprehension.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In our teaching profession of many years, we have been using the digital method of teaching for last six years and have felt that this innovative method of teaching is more interactive besides making our students more interested in learning by being in touch with multimedia and other latest technologies. In order to share my personal experience with the digital teaching methods, we had different discussions with our colleagues and students as well and came to the conclusion that the introduction of this latest and superb method of teaching can add a new feather in the overall teaching and learning processes.

MAJOR FINDINGS

We have come with miraculous results of our research. We have observed different changes in our students as well as in our own teaching. The findings of our research, we would like to express under the following points;

- The first thing that we realized is that the teaching and learning have become more enjoyable, interactive and full of pleasure.
- It has instilled enthusiastic approach to our teaching and thereby the learning ability of our students.
- Now we have more time to have more interactive sessions with our students by providing them with more personal attention.
- Now our students are able to share their knowledge and shortcomings with us and thus they can do away with their hesitation in presenting themselves in a more impressive and a more attractive way.
- More organized and up to date planning and preparation.
- A better tool to improved writing skills and bring the best out of the students.
- Better approach to teach body language, voice modulation and other presentation skills to the students.



CONCLUSION

Science and technology has gripped almost every field whether it is an academic sphere or any other one. Digital classroom or smart classes can be proved to be a milestone in the modern concept of teaching and learning processes. With the multiple advantages for both teaching and learning, this innovative and latest method can write new chapters in an interactive way. And now, the day is not very far when this innovative method attains the face of a face of a big classroom where the whole world becomes a big platform of the exchange of knowledge.

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