

Technology Coupled With Language, A Catalyst For Transformation

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Abstract- *The development and inventions of technology have made human life easier and helped people to cop-up and to work faster and efficiently in this modern era. Technology and its benefits are visible in every sector of life. It has several functions such as entertainment function, informative function, and social interactive function. It promotes business and plays a significant role in the health care sector too. This paper deals with different platforms and tools of technology, its role in promoting and sharing knowledge. It also tries to see how it makes people feel more comfortable in a non-formal setting and how it is different from the traditional or formal learning.*

Keywords- Technology, Education, Training, MOOC, Motivation.

I. INTRODUCTION

In traditional classrooms, interaction takes place in formal ways. There, learning process occurs when teacher imparts education to learners. In traditional system, there is a fixed schedule, a centre or institution and approved or recognised educational bodies. Schools and colleges are examples of such system. Here the flexibility in adjusting the schedules is less and it cannot be done by the learners. On the other hand, online learning offers another world of learning where flexibility matters a lot. In traditional learning, learner cannot fix a schedule of learning, whereas, in online learning, learner can learn from anywhere and at any time using his/her mobile phone. Thousands of options are available to the learners in the online platform based on their interest. Various E-learning providers have made education easily accessible to everyone irrespective of age and place.

Earlier, getting a foreign degree was possible only for a regular student. Learners had to go to foreign universities and complete their course. Now, the situation has changed. Foreign university programs are accessible to any learner from anywhere without going to the university or the institution offering the program. Many top universities such as Cambridge University, Oxford University and Harvard

University offer online courses. It is a great opportunity to the learners. By getting a foreign degree, they become more knowledgeable and efficient in the field of their specialization. There are courses with duration varying from 1 week to 1 year. Since many of the courses are free, money is not a barrier to access education.

'Coursera', 'Alison' and 'edX' are some of the widely known e-learning providers which host different programs including certificate and diploma programs in various specializations. The programs they offer are accredited to or awarded by reputed universities. Both free and paid courses are offered through these online platforms. Courses have proper syllabus and modules. Learners have to submit online assignments to be eligible to appear for examination.

'Swayam' is an initiative of the government of India. The major objective of 'Swayam' is to impart education. It stresses on access, equity and quality. Understanding the needs and changes of the 21st century, it offers best prepaid courses by educational and industrial experts. These courses can be accessed by any one from anywhere at their own pace. The programs have video lectures. Printed materials are also provided to the learners. 'Swayam' always updates its courses so that updated knowledge and changes are accessible to the learners. It helps learners to be more equipped with skills.

'YouTube' is considered as one of the finest platforms for both entertainment and information exchange. It is an American online video sharing platform. Through this platform people can publish or share their video contents. There are many 'YouTube' channels on education, sports, tourism and so on. Fortunately, there are amazing YouTube channels which offer quality education. 'Daily English' by Coach Shane is one of the best channels to improve English language; 'TedED' is another well-liked YouTube channel for education. The videos in YouTube can be watched in both online and offline mode.

'Whatsapp' and 'Facebook' are two of the widely used social networking platforms. They also work as a

platform for promoting and sharing information. In 'Whatsapp', people can make educational groups and can share printed materials, pictures and various multimedia contents. 'Whatsapp' members can actively involve in discussions to make collaborative learning. Nowadays, it is very common to create educational groups so that the members can be more accurate as well as updated with the contents. 'Facebook' is another famous social networking site which has many educational and training pages. 'Iryna's English page' and 'The Learn English' are facebook pages exclusively for developing English language. Pages like 'Technology' and 'Latest Technology' are popular in imparting and sharing contents on Technology.

Podcasts are effective tools to gather information. They have different episodic series of spoken and digital files which can be downloaded and used in smart phones. Series or episodes in podcasts are updated every week. They create enthusiasm among learners. Here, the users can decide which type of podcast they want to download and use. 'Nature Podcast' is one of the best podcasts for science and 'Talk' English is one of the best podcasts for improving language.

'Zoom' is a free HD application where people can do video conferences and online meetings. It's a big platform through which knowledge can be imparted effectively. Several companies and educational institutions offer Faculty development programs for the employees to modify and upgrade their skills. Various webinar series also take place through this platform. People can make video chats and can share documents through this platform.

The above mentioned are a few of the best online platforms and tools which foster meaningful learning and motivate learners. Learning materials and contents play a crucial role in motivating learners. Technology-enabled teaching- learning process undoubtedly cultivates interest in learners. Technology can create wonders; but it is possible only when learners are familiar with technological tools and have knowledge of English language. Combination of these two elements -language and technology- work as a catalyst for transforming ourselves through knowledge and skills.

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