

Students' response on Educational APPS: A Study among college Going students

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Abstract:

Education is considered as the backbone of a democratic society. For the better future of a nation education is highly essential. The process of educating never ends with teaching rather it is completed with learning. The process of learning is completed by internalization of the subjects taught to the learners. The new generation students are quite different by their attitude and they are highly techno savvy. Learning through the class room teaching has become a task of boredom and at the same time the new innovations have started opening doors for education in innovative manner. The modern students have started using technology for accessing better educational resources and the android mobile phones the tiny and portable devices are proving useful a lot to them making education more fascinating and attractive. As the android technology has gone cheaper and user friendly that is why the students have started using different educational apps for learning but till today the use of educational technology has not gone very popular in India. Thus the study is useful to find out the answers about the real status of android educational apps for the purpose of satisfying educational needs of students and their awareness about these.

Key Words: *Mobile phone, Education, knowledge, Technology, App*

Introduction

Each and every society for its growth and survival has given importance on developing the pool of knowledge. The contribution of education to develop the pool of knowledge can never be ignored. If the human society today has reached to the cyber era and artificial intelligence with importance on machine learning and internet of things, if automation has become a part of the life of present human society, then the development of the knowledge pool has a greater contribution towards it. Starting from the days of discovery of fire and wheel, man has always tried to move towards a comfortable life. Throughout the history of mankind, gaining knowledge has remained as the only larger goal of human society. Mankind by accumulating knowledge has

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always tried to remove the darkness of miseries. At the same time in its attempt to move towards a better life by removing the miseries of poverty and discrimination, it has tried to establish social justice with the help of knowledge. Thus knowledge has always remained as a weapon in the hands of humanity for the betterment of society. Similarly referring to great communication expert Wilber Schramm² from his famous book *Mass Media and National Development* (1964), it can be said “light is better than darkness and knowledge is better than ignorance”. So knowledge is an essential requirement for human beings to survive in a society and education is the means for knowledge. Socrates speaks “Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel³”, Which means education should be designed in such a way that it should inspire the students to gain more and more knowledge. It should help them to empower themselves by learning life skills. It should help them to solve the challenges of life with the knowledge they have received from their education.

While discussing the above we understand it that education is an essential requirement for the survival, growth and development of an individual in any society. If education is imparted in a proper way to fulfill the requirements of life then the individual and the society survives in a better way. A properly imparted education perfectly shapes the personality of an individual making him aware about his and other’s human rights. Real education empowers an individual to solve life problems in a skillful manner. So in other words proper education promotes empowerment in a student and enlightens him. But in the contemporary social and educational scenario of India imparting quality and meaningful education has various challenges and there is a need of removing these obstacles from the path. The basic problems those work like road blocks in imparting meaningful education are:

Language: Language as a medium of communication plays a crucial role in exchange of ideas and information. In Indian context, India is a multilingual country and at the same time there is not enough scope for the students in India to learn other languages than the mother tongue. Though the arrival of modern mass media has made Hindi popular in almost all the corners of the country but still the Indian students suffer from linguistic barriers till date. The popularization of English education and development of English as a window language at the

² Wilber Schram the author of the book *mass media and national development* is a communication expert from Germany and has contributed a lot to the field of communication.

³ A statement by Socrates, the famous Greek thinker and Philosopher

world level has raised new challenges in front of the Indian educationists and students. Though speaking and writing of English have no more remained as challenges to urban students but they have remained as challenges to the students of rural India which lacks from public schools and well trained teachers to impart English education in a better way. Both urban and rural students are equally talented but due to the constraint of English language students from rural background suffer more than the urban students.

Lack Of Communication Skills- Communication skills is one among the important requirements for imparting meaningful education among our students. Because having only knowledge is meaningless for a person if he/she is not able to express it properly at the time of need

The Teaching Vs Preaching Debate: Famous educationist Ivan Illich in his book *Deschooling Society* says “The pupil is “schooled” to confuse teaching with learning, grade advancement with education, a diploma with competence, and fluency with the ability to say something new.” Thus teaching as a noble profession is involved with imparting knowledge within the students but in India most of the teachings are purely classroom based having no practical demonstration of the subjects. Again learning through observation and experimentation is too low in case of Indian teaching system. The classroom teaching in which the teacher goes on talking about subjects without creating realization among students creates a problem for students to understand it and decreases the value of the education. Lack of practical demonstration and active participation between teacher and students is making the process of learning less interesting by changing the status of a teacher to a preacher.

Communicative Ecology and Traditional Knowledge System: Earlier while defining communication, we have defined it as a process of human experience which plays a crucial role in information dissemination in the process of teaching. Culture as a part of the communicative ecology plays a crucial role to make communication process meaningful for imparting education. As India is a multicultural country so the communicative ecology is different from one place to another and it works as a big obstacle in imparting meaningful education. For example each society has its own model for educating its individuals and this traditional way of imparting knowledge has worked successfully for years among different communities. But before introducing any new approach to the learning system to make the process of learning more

meaningful there should be a proper understanding of the traditional knowledge system and if possible the approach should be to develop a mixed model without bringing changes to the fundamental concept of the approach. At the same time as a part of the cultural system the traditional knowledge about elements of one's own cultural environment should be given priority while making approach for meaningful education.

Banking concept of Education⁴- Present educational system prevalent in our country is only based on the concept of retention of information and it never promotes learning or developing life skills in a student. To speak in a more better way if we analyze our present educational scenario we will find it that our educational system has characters similar to that of "Banking concept of education" suggested by Brazilian philosopher Pulo Freire in his famous book pedagogy of the oppressed . In the banking concept of education the teacher holds a key position and the student never becomes a part of the educational system which hinders learning. The process of learning is not participatory and it is completely authoritarian where the teacher imposes everything and the students work with the illusion of learning though they never become a part of the learning process. Thus the banking concept of education has the least scope for learning and at the same time the banking concept of education being authoritarian and suppressive, kills the interest of students towards learning.

Thus, when Indian educational scenario is surrounded by such road blocks there is a need and necessity of strategic intervention to solve the problems of the educational system. Education should be designed in such a manner that it should be attractive and bring critical consciousness among the students so that the learning can be made meaningful. In a better way it can be said that "Give a man a fish and he eats for a day; help him learn how to fish, and he eats for life⁵" and education should solve this purpose by igniting inner talents of the students. But to satisfy the purpose of a meaningful education it should be imparted in an attractive and fascinating manner. In an era when we are chatting about edutainment with slogans like "Karlo Duniya Muthi Main⁶" and when information technology has reached to the vibrant new generation and

⁴ Banking concept of education is a concept proposed by famous Brazilian educationist and philosopher Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of the oppressed P-73

⁵ A famous Chinese proverb

⁶ It was the slogan of Reliance telecommunication to promote mobile phones.

the youth of this country have started loving technology at that time the android mobile phones with their educational apps can be made meaningful for the students.

The New Education Technology

Education scenario in the country has changed a lot. Now with smart phones in hand, students have started preferring virtual platform and have started liking the educational apps. Though online education has not replaced the classroom education but with attractive multimedia contents and instructional videos and courseware approach, online education has gone attractive and fascinating. In India big players like BYJU and others have completely come forward to promote educational apps. These days big players like Course era, future learn, edx, Udemy, Slide share have also started promoting educational apps. Android mobile operating system (OS) developed by Google, and designed primarily for touch screen mobile devices such as smart phones and tablets within last few years have changed the scenario. After reaching at Android pie it has brought many changes. Similarly the I Phone has also brought changes to facilitate customer needs. but in all cases the educational apps have started gaining popularity due to different advantages.

Educational Apps

An Educational app is an application installed in a device to perform a particular task. The educational apps are mostly developed by the developers to provide educational resources to the learners and these days there are a large number of apps in the Googleplay⁷ or in I-phone store

Low Cost: In case of the smart mobile phones the cost involved is very low because anybody with the facility of internet connection can access the resources easily and at the same time considering the quality of education we can use apps for developing virtual class room environments.

Anytime any where accessible: Available in tiny portable mobile phones, educational apps are a faster and smarter choice to access educational resources at anytime and at anyplace with a very easily.

It minimizes the linguistic barriers- As a modern tool for education apps provide the facility to learn a large number of national and international languages to minimize the linguistic barrier. Again there are apps to translate from one language to another.

It provides a real feeling to the learner – Due to the facility of audio visual education and practical based learning resources educational apps provide a better understanding of the subjects by creating a virtual learning environment.

⁷ Google play is the store house of different downloadable applications for android devices

Self based learning: The educational apps are very helpful for self based learning in which students get the opportunity to learn as per their own interest on their own preference which make the learning more attractive.

Compatible for Flipped Classrooms: The flipped classroom is a pedagogical model in which the typical lecture and homework elements of a course are reversed. The notion of a flipped classroom draws on concepts like active learning, student engagement, hybrid course design, and course podcasting and educational apps are capable of providing all such facilities.

The Study

The study is conducted among 50 post graduate Journalism students from different media institutes of Bhubaneswar with the objective of finding out the responses of students relating to educational apps. The reason to select educational apps is that, they are very popular among students than any other resources. The students are selected from different academic organizations of Bhubaneswar because Bhubaneswar is the capital city of the state and internet facility is better available here and rate of smart phone using is also higher than any other city/towns of Odisha . Sampling used for the purpose of the study is convenient sampling. Methodology used for the study is survey method using questionnaires and data used are both primary and secondary. Variables for the study are internet facility and individuals exposure to educational apps.

The response of students about android educational apps.

From the study it has been found that all the students use smart mobile phones with different apps installed in them. 83% of the students were of the opinion that mobile phones can be used as a learning device but 17% consider it to be a communication device only and in their view mobile phones are meant for telephonic interaction only. All the students know it that educational apps are there which can be used for study purpose.66% of the students are of the view that initially the apps look very attractive but latter they fail to satisfy the real purpose. 22% of the students are of the view that it is very difficult to find a proper educational app to satisfy their purpose and 12% of the students are of the view that they are attractive tools for learning. 41% of the students have educational apps installed in their phones where as 59% of the students

have not installed or removed educational apps from their phones. 38% of the students use educational apps for study purpose and 62% do not do so. Those students who use educational apps for learning out of them 42% of the students who use educational apps to learn things, of their own discipline, and 46% prefer the apps to improve their English where as 12% students use the apps to improve general knowledge. All the students have responded with the view that apps with audio visual facility are best tools for learning. While downloading the apps they prefer those apps which have a better rating .While downloading the apps, 66% of students prefer the apps available online with updated data Base and 34% prefer those apps which are available both online and offline. All of them have agreed to the view that more and more awareness should be promoted among students relating to educational apps and the apps are an easy and attractive way of study.

Conclusion:

Thus from the above study we can say that most of the students are interested to use educational apps for study but selecting proper apps to satisfy their purpose is proving difficult for them. Again installation of improper apps is embarrassing them. They prefer the audio visual facility based apps matching to their interest and they need the apps to be available in updated format. The popularity of educational apps as a study resource is increasing among students but due to lack of proper awareness they are not able to make proper use of them. For the same reason, many of them are not able to consider the apps as a proper resource so satisfy their study purpose. Hence it is expected that awareness generation and development of more and more student centric apps will be able to establish educational apps as a better resource .

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