

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

“Technology will not replace great teachers but technology in the hands of great teachers can be Transformational”–

George Couros

It is no secret that a good education has the power to change a life. What is new is the demand for that change. We no longer are contented with a peaceful life; we want a life full of changes & challenges. And to keep abreast with these changes, we keep filling ourselves with every information & knowledge we get our hands on. A section of the society (News Channels, News Papers, Internet, Bloggers, Messages circulated through various electronic media) works aggressively day in & day out to gather & display every piece of information; at the same time, another section (the consumer) devours this information with an ultimate objective to utilize it as & when needed.



From student & teacher's point of view, this accumulation & sharing of information is considered as part of Education; others flaunt it as general knowledge or awareness. Books always impart that which is long-gone, whereas electronic media reports that which is too recent or happening live. That feeling, "that I have the latest news, I am updated", makes you a star & that is what everybody is striving for. Therefore, Technology-driven Education is taking precedence over books. But everything has its advantages & disadvantages; & Technology is no exception. In this paper, we will discuss more in detail about the purpose of the education; why technology-driven education is being preferred over books; its advantages & disadvantages & also its socio-economic impact on the common man.

Keywords: Education, Life, Books, Technology, Knowledge, Growth, Society, Economy, Interaction.

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Introduction

“We need technology in every classroom and in every student and teacher’s hand, because it is the pen and paper of our time, and it is the lens through which we experience much of our world.”

- David Warlick

Purpose of Education:

Education is a process through which an individual learns the art of cherishing life. Its purpose is to teach us values; develop patience for disagreeable belief systems; nurture understanding; instill courage to question the very existence; and with the help of these attributes contribute to the growth of the human society.



But unfortunately, the whole purpose of education got distorted lately. For some reason, we started considering accumulation of information as education; & the art of utilizing that information for personal gain as knowledge. Books are designed & compiled after much deliberation & the information is presented in a sequence (students learn the subject matter in an order, class wise). However, with the advancement in technology, suddenly we experienced an uncontrolled surge of information (relevant & irrelevant) & welcomed it without question.

Why is Technology-Driven Education being preferred Over Books?

Laptops, Tablets, Computers and Mobiles have changed the way students used to learn. Now, with the ease of internet access, education is effortlessly accessible anywhere around the world & that too within seconds, which books cannot do. No doubt, the digital information technology has radically transformed the way faculties and students access general facts & figures.

Technology-driven education is even replacing libraries & books at an unprecedented rate. In last 10 years, Libraries, which were considered a vast source of information, records & documents, have seen a good 21% decline trend in transactions & reader’s footfall. Not just that, even the circulations & the print media publication has declined to 35%.

Factors which are enabling the growth of Technology-driven education:

- Personalized & Adaptive Learning
- Two way conversation in E-learning
- Mobile based learning
- Video based learning
- Usage of Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) for learning



These programs offers adaptive learning, permits 2-way communication between students & teachers, they can upload their lecture & notes and share with those who need additional help or resources. This way, the general pool of knowledge expands.

Socio-economic Impact

• **Advantages**

- Technology with the help of animation or visuals assist students to stay inspired during the learning process.
- Communication between teachers and parents is encouraged by technology.
- Technology-driven education in classrooms is very economical.
- It offers new ways & methods to teach & learn.
- Technology allows students to access data from a single location.
- It helps students to prepare for their future world.
- It encourages students to stay engaged with their learning environment.
- Subject matter becomes more reliable when taught through technology in the classroom.

• **Disadvantages**

- Tech sometimes takes students to an imaginary world & can disconnect them from the classroom.
- Students might not be able to distinguish between the reliable and unreliable resources.
- Technology might prove expensive for parents.
- There is a danger that technology might replace the teachers from the classrooms.
- There are confidentiality concerns to consider with technology in the classroom.
- Technology-driven education could create medical problems for some kids.
- Kids often miss their time-table when engrossed in technology.
- Technology might hamper student's recollection power.

On the one hand, with the introduction of technology-driven education, children are learning new things on a real time basis; on the other hand, they are also becoming introverts. It has been observed that their dependency on technology is limiting their participation in civic and social spheres. They prefer to stay in the virtual world and avoid outdoor games & social gatherings. Lack of physical exercise is resulting in obesity problems and too much of exposure to the screen causes eye strain & discomfort. As schools & colleges are introducing technology in classrooms, they are charging higher fees from the parents, causing extra financial burden & mental stress. With the launching of various new gadgets (laptops, tablets), educational institutes are bound to promote them to their students, as they have to ensure that their students are in the main stream.

Conclusion

Technology, no doubt, has become an indispensable part of our life. It is a versatile tool, which has made teaching and learning very simple & accessible to all. It not only supports students but also helps teachers in verifying facts & figures instantly. It sometimes even acts as an individual tutor and assists a struggling apprentice.

Apart from merits, we also need to consider the demerits before completely switching on to Technology-driven education or Smart classes or Hi-tech education system. It's okay as long as we use it only as a tool to engage students and develop their analytical & higher order thinking skills.

But it might prove precarious if we start considering it as a substitute for teaching, because technology can help in providing the information, but only a teacher can filter, make that information comprehensible & guide students in the right direction. Technology should serve us; it should not become our master....!!!!

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