



The School as an Instrument of Change in the 21st Century: The Digital Option.

¹*Kasumu, Rebecca Oluwayimika (PhD),* ²*Uduak, Idoghor (PhD, LLB)*

¹Department of Curriculum Studies/Educational Technology

²Faculty of Education, University of Port Harcourt

Abstract

Giving pupils the knowledge and abilities, they need to thrive in the modern world while also fostering their confidence in their ability to use those abilities is the goal of education in the twenty-first century. With so much information at their fingertips, 21st century skills are more focused on making sense of it, sharing it, and using it wisely. These days, teaching is a complex and hard profession. Future instructors will have to accept that children will need to receive their education in a flexible, tailored style. For certain students, this may include having a classroom that is more technologically advanced. Students will desire their educational experience to accommodate their academic needs, time limits, and hobbies. Teachers have the opportunity to create interesting learning possibilities in their courses by analyzing the use of digital technology. These chances can be in the form of partially or entirely online courses and programs. More than just providing laptops to pupils is what is meant by digital learning. A combination of technology, training, and digital content is required for digital learning. The use of tablets in place of paper or more complex software and equipment in place of a simple pen can all contribute to the integration of digital learning in the classroom.

Keywords: School; Social change; Instrument of change; 21st century; Digital option.

Introduction

In today's society, education is frequently acknowledged as a tool for social change. By causing a person's outlook and attitudes to shift, education can start a change. Technology may result in social changes if it alters the way people interact with one another. Change in a person's life and way of living is one of education's goals. Education must fulfill two roles. The person becomes first frustrated with the state of affairs. Unconsciously, it prepares people to accept change whenever it is provided by encouraging dejection and preparing one to look for change. Second, education doesn't simply end with person and preparedness for a shift. Additionally, it empowers the person to move on with bringing about conscious change in society (Bergeron, 2012).

The process of social development, also known as social change, interacts with education. It can impose on the populace an outlook that will actually allow them to let go of their orthodox values, sociocultural barriers, and class of religious and secularist notions. Education as an instrument of social change. One of the most formidable and potent tools of social change is education. Through education, a society can modernize itself and effect important and highly desired changes. Education can assist a person to grow and groom himself for adjustment with the emerging requirements and philosophies of the changing society by offering enough opportunities and experiences and help in the transformation of society as a whole (IPL, 2020).

Every element of a person's life has undergone astounding transformation as a result of education. According to Brown (19490), education is a process that alters how society behaves. It is a procedure that enables each person to successfully take part in societal activities and contribute favorably to the advancement of society.

The Education Commission (1964) held the opinion that education played a significant role in national development and the establishment of a truly democratic society. To create a well-balanced, integrated, and sufficient system of national education that might significantly improve all facets of national life, the government deemed it necessary to study and examine the entire field of education.

Aim and objectives

This study is to examine the school as an instrument of change in the 21st century: The digital option. Specifically, the study intends to:

1. Examine the strategies for managing change in schools
2. Discuss the functions of education in the sphere of social change
3. Describe the digital option

4. Explain the different methods of digital learning
5. Identify the advantages of digital education system for students.

Discussion

Strategies for managing change in schools

Lain (2021) suggests the following methods for handling change in educational institutions:

1. Control perspective. Many individuals believe that change is something that just happens to them, something that is done without their knowledge or consent, and something that is beyond their control. This is sometimes true, however for the majority of initiatives in a school setting, teachers and administrators have some control over how (or even if) change is implemented. People will feel more in charge and there will be greater worker buy-in if they are given more chances and encouragement to contribute. A larger sense of ownership is more likely to result in the successful implementation of change inside a company, according to research, which makes this very evident.
2. Integrate change into the culture of the institution. Just as some people are more adaptable than others, so too are some organizations. Start simple but noticeable modifications that make an impact in schools where change is frowned upon. The more employees experience these tiny victories, the more willing they are to attempt new things. Failure is also a learning experience, therefore do not hide it if an endeavor fails or has unforeseen repercussions.
3. Respect the skeptics: When someone raises a doubt about a proposed change, the natural instinct may be to become irritated or even angry. But keep in mind that doubters are always welcome since they provide challenging questions. It's crucial to reconsider a proposal if someone asks a valid inquiry and you are unable to respond with a sensible response. Though it is wonderful to feel upbeat about new endeavors, the cynics are the ones that keep us grounded in reality.
4. Understand the organization's history of change. Organizations that go through change too frequently (or continuously) tend to lose interest in new concepts, and those that have had bad experiences with change will be far more reluctant to try new things. There are no hard and fast laws, but as with many other aspects of life, studying the past can provide important details about how things may—or may not—develop in the future.
5. Always be mindful of preconceived notions: There are many parties involved in education, including parents, instructors, administrators, and, of course, students. All of the individuals in the last three groups have attended school, and the majority of them have ideas about what school should entail. After all, little has changed in terms of the actual and metaphorical frameworks of schools over the previous 200 years. Maintaining the status quo for much longer, though, seems increasingly difficult and ineffective.

Functions of education in the sphere of social change

Among the many roles that education plays, a few are listed below:

1. Culture is transmitted through education, which instills and passes on societal standards, values, and beliefs to the following generation. Teachers pass on the social standards they have learned to the younger generation after going through a comparable phase of learning themselves. There are certain modifications in it as a result of societal change and the teacher's personal experience, even though the exact social norms are not taught and passed down to the next generation (Teachthought, 2021)
2. Social integration: Education brings people together in society and fosters a sense of camaraderie. It enables people and groups to work together and discover a common basis for social interaction. Education makes people into a cohesive, well-organized society, which is why it helps build nations.
3. Career Choice: Education aids people in considering the careers they want to follow in the future. It equips them for next endeavors. Give them all the information they require on both their social and professional lives.
4. Techniques for Learning Abilities: Education provides students with a variety of methods for learning specialized skills. For gaining diverse professional skills, there are several educational institutes.
5. Socialization: Because humans are social animals, it is important to socialize in order to develop social skills and societal norms. Our educational setting gives us the chance to socialize with others who share our interests and age. It aids in personality development and the acquisition of positive personality qualities.
6. Thinking Rationally: Education enables us to conclude any event, circumstance, or problem with a plausible justification.
7. Adjustment in Society: Education develops a person's personality, enabling them to adapt to any situation, group, community, or society.
8. Patriotism: Through educational institutions, people are instilled with a love of their homeland and country at a very young age. They are taught their responsibilities to the nation and to their own country.

The Digital Option

Any sort of learning that is supported by technology or involves instructional strategies that effectively employ technology is referred to as digital learning. It includes the use of a variety of techniques, such as blended learning and online education. Online learning and e-learning are commonly confused with digital learning, which includes both of those ideas (Ipag business school, 2021).

According to Melissa (2019), a digital learning plan may consist of all of the following, individually or in combination:

- Gamification, badges, and adaptive learning

Learning analytics, e-textbooks, blended learning, classroom technology, and learning objects

- Mobile learning using devices including laptops, tablets, PCs, and mobile phones.

Open educational resources (OERs), technology-enhanced teaching and learning, personalized learning, online learning (or e-learning), virtual reality, and augmented reality.

Mobile technologies make it feasible to continue learning while on the go. Instead of completely replacing traditional methods, digital learning aims to improve them. The following are typical teaching methods, or pedagogies, that incorporate technology and learning:

1. Hybrid/blended learning
2. Online education
3. Flipped instruction
4. 1:1 instruction
4. Differentiated instruction
6. Personalized instruction
7. Personalized education
8. Gamification
10. Universal Design for Learning (UDL) 11. Understanding by Design (UBD) (Anand, 2021).

The scope of learning opportunities has been completely expanded by the digital transformation. The way we relate to education and training has significantly altered, and new technologies now make it possible for us to learn wherever we are and at any time. Digital learning is a style of instruction that uses modern digital resources to provide students the option of learning face-to-face, remotely (asynchronously or synchronously), or through a combination of both. Therefore, it involves a variety of teaching techniques rather than only digitizing educational information. In other words, digital learning is the digitization of the entire educational process, including social learning, online tests, networking with alumni, professionalization workshops, and virtual meetings with experts (Jean-Baptiste, 2020).

The different teaching methods of digital learning

Here is a summary of the most prevalent teaching strategies and technological advancements for digital learning, which go beyond e-learning as a way of asynchronous training through a computer (Ipag Business School, 2021).

- The virtual classroom: Using the same logic as conventional synchronous instruction, virtual classrooms enable instructors and students to come together virtually, for instance via a video conference.
- Serious games: Constructed in a variety of ways (simulation, gamification, etc.), they make it possible to learn skills in an enjoyable and occasionally group setting.
- The MOOC (Massive Open Online Course): The most well-known kind of instruction, it relies on a platform for instruction through videos, downloadable materials, tests, and other activities.
- SPOC (Small Private Online Course): Like MOOCs, SPOCs are interactive training courses that are specifically designed for smaller groups of students. This promotes interaction with the instructor and guarantees that students are followed up on.
- Mobile learning: As the name implies, this type of learning involves using a smartphone for instruction. A method that is especially well suited to the "anytime, anywhere, anytime" learning environment.
- Social learning (social and collaborative learning): This more informal and collaborative learning method is based on the interchange and sharing of experience within a group and is also utilized in a complementary manner in the context of hybrid or face-to-face training.
- Adaptive learning: This idea describes how some training programs are highly customized to meet the needs of each learner (specific modules and workshops, adapted training courses, etc.).

The success of a virtual training course, whether in the context of blended learning or completely online, depends on the coherence and appropriateness of the combination of all these teaching resources. With digital learning, the learner is not simply a consumer of content (that is e-learning), he or she is an integral part of a promotion. The digital world is changing. Digital skills are not only necessary for start-up employees. Industrial workers in factories, employees in administrative roles, and bank managers all need to be proficient in the digital world. In order to be relevant in this digital age, our educational system and, in particular, the way we study and teach, must be modified. All educational levels, including primary school, vocational schools, universities, and continuing education, are affected by this (Beckham, 2021).

People will be able to participate in social life in the future in a self-determined way thanks to digital schooling. Digital education will also guarantee that businesses stay competitive. Simply put, education 4.0 is necessary for industry 4.0. Both how we study and what we learn must undergo profound change as a result of the digital transition. This is due to the fact that, in addition to reading, writing, and math, digital skills have emerged as a fourth core competency, according to Edubrite (2020).

Twinkl (2021) asserts that secondary schools are in charge of delivering a basic digital education and enhancing instruction in STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, and math), which will only grow in importance in the future. In computer studies, students should learn how to operate software programs and gain an understanding of how computers, the Internet, and data security work. Then, during professional training and development, this might serve as the starting point for learning about more intricate digital and IT topics.

It is now feasible to adapt the learning content and procedures to the unique needs of each student thanks to new possibilities for lightning-fast data assessment. Their development may be tracked by intelligent software, which can also determine which content has been grasped and which still need more training. This enables courses to be tailored while concentrating on maximizing each student's potential. Modernizing teacher education programs is also necessary for digital education to become a reality. The delivery of pertinent knowledge to students, trainees, and college students through digital media calls for well-trained teachers. Additionally, the government should repeal the ban on federal engagement in state-level educational concerns and create a few carefully chosen projects as part of an excellence effort, such as in the field of digital education. Digital platforms, virtual or augmented reality, online libraries, webinars, and other types of learning are all made feasible by digital media in schools, colleges, and universities as well as in corporate training and development programs.

Digitizing conventional instructional materials is only one aspect of digital learning. Digital media in education will open up entirely new channels for collaboration, networking, and communication. Digital training is more adaptable, customized, and transportable than traditional modes of learning since it is not restricted by time or location. Course materials are now created, shared, and co-developed on the cloud in the digital age. Students learn to take on more personal responsibility at a young age through digital learning, which also enhances communication and teamwork (Ryle, 2020).

The purpose of education remains the same despite all the changes brought on by the digital transformation: It should help people to grow as individuals and enable them to engage in social, political, and economic life in a responsible manner. We therefore require education that is current with modern technology. Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL), sometimes known as digital learning, is the creative application of digital technology and tools across teaching and learning. Digital learning is instruction made possible by technology that gives students some control over the location, time, pace, and direction of their learning. Every day, more and more traditional instructional methods are being replaced by digital ones (Singh, 2020)

Teachers have the opportunity to create interesting learning possibilities in their courses by analyzing the use of digital technology. These chances can be in the form of partially or entirely online courses and programs. More than just providing laptops to pupils is what is meant by digital learning. A combination of technology, training, and digital content is required for digital learning. The use of tablets in place of paper or more complex software and equipment in place of a simple pen can all contribute to the integration of digital learning in the classroom.

In the present world, digital learning has become fairly commonplace. The development of the internet has given the modern world a wealth of opportunities. The outdated chalk and board method of teaching in classrooms was changed by the digital education system. It has made education more flexible, interactive, and fun, encouraging students to engage in and stick with digital learning. Due to the fact that most schools and institutions are using this technology as a replacement for the traditional education system, which has been suspended temporarily due to the current situation, it is imperative that we recognize some of the primary benefits of the digital education system (Walter, 2022).

Advantages of digital education system for students:

- **Personalized Learning:** The most important benefit of the digital education system is the chance to let students learn at the pace and direction that works best for them. The most effective type of personalized learning is one-on-one instruction. But it is costly and time-consuming. When pupils are unable to catch up with the rest of the class using the traditional learning method, it frequently results in a lack of enthusiasm on their part. In digital form, teachers can alter the curriculum in accordance with each student's rate of learning and aptitude (Educause, 2021).
- **Improves Student Intelligence:** Technology-enhanced learning tools help students develop strong learning strategies on their own. The students can evaluate what they need to know to learn to search for and use internet resources. They are more productive and efficient thanks to digital learning. Digital learning tools and technology also help students develop their critical thinking abilities, which are the cornerstone of the development of systematic reasoning. By using digital learning tools to master new knowledge and abilities, students also experience positive sensations of exploitation, which gives them the confidence they need to want to learn even more new things.

- **Create Self-Motivation in Students:** Students who learn with digital tools and technology are more involved in the process and more eager to expand their knowledge. Digital learning offers a better context, a stronger sense of possibilities, and more engaging activities than traditional educational methods. It is also significantly more interactive and remembered than generous textbooks or one-sided lectures. Students can connect with the learning materials more effectively thanks to digital learning (Gautam, 2020).
- **Expanded Learning Options:** One of the main benefits of digital learning is that it gives students access to more educational opportunities. By expanding learning opportunities, digital learning helps students understand that learning happens at different times and in different places, and that this variety of learning opportunities is made possible by digital learning. Students benefit greatly from using digital tools and technology (Clover, 2017)
- **Foster students' accountability:** With real-time performance analysis and automatically generated results, the digital education system greatly improves transparency and informs ability in the assessment of each and every student. It gives the students the capacity to evaluate their performance in detail and develop their own appropriate answers. Digital learning allows for self-direction. When students learn online, they eventually conduct the best research on a subject and gather relevant data by perusing a wealth of internet resources (Talent Garden, 2022).
- **Higher Participation Rate:** The traditional classroom environment, which consists of students, textbooks, and teachers for instruction, leaves limited room for student engagement. The digital education system, on the other hand, offers students a wide range of learning alternatives. The endless supply of photos and videos, virtual reality, interactive lessons, and a host of other features make the digital learning approach more engaging and easier for pupils to understand (Times square chronicle, 2014).

Conclusions

Teachers have the opportunity to create interesting learning possibilities in their courses by analyzing the use of digital technology. These chances can be in the form of partially or entirely online courses and programs. More than just providing laptops to pupils is what is meant by digital learning. A combination of technology, training, and digital content is required for digital learning. The use of tablets in place of paper or more complex software and equipment in place of a simple pen can all contribute to the integration of digital learning in the classroom. In the present world, digital learning has become fairly commonplace. The development of the internet has given the modern world a wealth of opportunities. The outdated chalk and board method of teaching in classrooms was changed by the digital education system. It has made education more flexible, interactive, and fun, encouraging students to engage in and stick with digital learning. As a result of the current situation, the majority of schools and institutions are using this technology as a replacement while the traditional educational system is put on hold for a while.

Technology and the digital education system fill in the gaps left by traditional classroom instruction. It provides students with a number of benefits, including the freedom to study when and where it's convenient for them. The limitations of conventional learning methods have been overcome by the fusion of technology and education, making education accessible to everyone.

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