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Assignment 1: <u>Examine the assertion that educational technology is a broad discipline [100]</u>

Introduction

Many institutes have adopted educational technology. The main reason they have adopted the use of educational technology in their studies is that it has proved to be effective as they are seeing good results out of it. Therefore now is the right time to examine how influences from the constituency disciplines have guided practice in educational technology. In particular we will consider the idea of educational technology as applied educational science and how theories in these disciplines are used. We look here at influences from educational technology and artificial intelligence in education and human computer interaction.

Definition of terms.

Educational technology is the application of the body of knowledge to solve educational problems. This definition is a combination of the two definitions of education and technology. Education is the process of teaching, training and learning in schools, colleges and universities whilst technology is a body of knowledge which is applied to solve problems.

Discipline refers to the system of rules governing activities and broad is the involvement of many people or things.

Body.

The application of gadgets including cellphones and laptops in the education system has improved educational activities. It has made both teaching and learning activities much easier. Before the introduction of technology in the education system lecturers would take more time delivering information to their students at the same time students would also take more time taking the work before even studying it. Now with technology as part of education teachers can just send work online to students and students are able to study right away.

Educational technology has made it easier to make use of audio and visual media in learning activities.

There are two components found in the concept of educational technology. These are technology in education and technology of education. Technology in education is also referred to as the hardware

approach and technology of education as the software approach. In the hardware approach there is application of gadgets of equipment to improve the quality of education. It involves the use of audio and visual media. Examples include cellphones, newspapers, picture and many others.

With the software approach there is the application of theories and laws in education for the purpose of improving the quality of education.

There are more advantages of using technology in education. These advantages are for both learners and teachers. These include that teacher are able to record their lectures to be attended by students whilst they will be doing other businesses. This is also an advantage to students as they can repeat the lectures at their own pace. Students can take these lectures the time they feel is suitable for learning.

Teachers easily share information with students within and outside classroom. Lectures can be done online this makes it possible for both students those inside and those outside classroom to attend.

The use of educational technology provides collaborative learning to students in different places.

More time is created for both teachers and learners. Learners can also take other courses that may not be offered by their institutes. There are other certifications that are needed in the industry for example java certificate in the field of computer science but most institutes do not offer those certification.

More technology is being developed which allows teachers to assess their students. Real time feedback is also possible.

As many as these advantages are, there are also disadvantages of educational technology.

More time is needed in preparing for the lessons. The teacher has to master the technology to use the students are more comfortable with. All this is research which has to be done before conducting lectures.

There is always the issue of high cost for the latest type of technology used in class or at home. The latest types of technology are always the best as they are developed to solve problems that may have been faced.

Heavy usage of computer may cause health problems like poor eye sight to some students especially the young ones. There is reduced face to face interaction between learners and teachers. This might be good for adults but not always for young ones.

There is also some factor of addiction to technology such that interaction of family members in the same room may be very limited.

There is a higher rate of cheating among students in daily work or examinations.

Conclusion

Educational technology has proven to be very efficient despite having disadvantages. It has managed to take education to a higher level and the whole process has been made enjoyable. Both learners and teachers needs to work on reducing the disadvantages of educational technology. With educational technology being used more and more a number of technologies are being developed to enhance it. There is still need to validate the technologies being used in education and also understand the experiences of users, both leaners and teachers.