Teaching and Learning Language and Literature in the Digital Era: Opportunities and Challenges: Class E-management and Assessment in the Digital World

Shraddha Gour Mohanti

The latest boom of digital technology has taken over the mind of man and brought an evolution in our way of thinking, feeling, understanding and teaching. The current evolutionary situation has changed the role of digital media from potential distraction to reliable support. The technology that was thought to be a hazard has become a partner in education. Moreover the increase in the trend of digitalization of information and communication has led to the removal of boundaries between the learners and educators of language across the world.

The learners of modern era are breathing in a digital world. Time and space plays an important role in their lives. This change has provoked the educational leaders to evolve and find new ways in making learning edutainment which has resulted in the increase in use of hypermedia in learning. Printed material started coming with digital backup and online resources. The leaders were motivated to bring out necessary changes in the education system resulting in the new educational policy.

With time, English language has become an intrinsic part of society. It resembles a social phenomenon. Certain rules are established for the study of language in the society. The Boards and Universities design their own syllabus keeping in mind, the structure of the society and need of the learners.

Internet has become the biggest facilitator of current times. Online communication of information has vastly impacted the teaching learning process. Technology makes innovation possible. But we are face to face with yet another harsh reality that the current situation has produced stopping us from making the new education policy a successful one. The biggest challenge faced by the educators is the physical absence and virtual presence of learners. The learners of today are fed by technology and innovations in the world of internet. The methodology applied by old school seem obsolete to them. This results in the absence or lack of one of the key factors that facilitates learning and that is the power of concentration. In an approximately 40 minutes lecture their concentration span reduces to hardly ten minutes. For the learning of English language or any language the physical presence of teachers helps learners in understanding the topic verbally and nonverbally along with the gestures and expressions of the educator. This presence does not come out in full impact through E-classrooms.

On one hand e-learning has posed a threat to the whole learning –teaching process and on the other it has resulted in the discovery of innovative learning and assessment techniques. When the online classes are managed through technology and skills of the educator, all three important phases learning, assimilation and re-expression are achieved. In the Introduction to Integral Eduation, Sraddhalu Ranade clearly mentions about the importance of these phases, "We realize that these are three natural steps in which the brain learns. If you follow the three steps in rhythm with the brain's need, then it can easily absorb its learning as an experience in its permanent memory"(Ranade 85). To make this work, various tools and techniques are made available only through E-classroom. For the management of class it is necessary to have a good hand at techno learning. E-learning can promote the use of all four techniques, Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing that are needed to have command over language. It is a proven fact that languages are not learned through grammar but by living them. The various practices may include the hypermedia which is an example of maximum utilization of resources. Incorporating text, graphics, audios and videos along with learning makes it easier for all types of learners whether logical, linguistic, Spatial or Kinesthetic. The hypertext added to material can also help the learners to jump from one source to another thus creating a varied understanding of the topic. Not only does online learning simulates the classroom learning but also adds a plus factor to it by giving professor a lot of time to enhance the experience of the youngsters by various activities. The classes provide an opportunity of audio visual classroom where the pre- recorded lectures can be sent to the individuals and classroom time can be utilized in learner centred activities. Education in the new era has reached a level where focus upon learners has become the need of the hour thus breaking away from the colonial education objectives. The teacher becomes the observer and a passive participant in the whole process thus helping the students to seek out the knowledge. Innovative assignments add up to the learning experience. Digital classrooms provide better management by giving virtual experience.

During online communication, the learners are seated at their spaces or comfort zones and can concentrate wholly on the communication part which helps in better exchange of information. Even Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are used an educational tool across various institutions and universities of the world. E-Classrooms increase the mental productivity by lessening the undue physical and mental burden. It is extremely important to use certain tools or strategies for making the process easier and enjoyable. According to Jean-Luc Trussart approaches to teaching include the exploratory approach, permissive approach, authoritative approach, behavioural approach, collaborative approach and anticipatory approach(Trussart).

 Sraddhalu Ranade in his book says that "Evaluation is not an occasional thing; it must be continuous, non-formal, sometimes non-obvious evaluation..."(Ranade 156). Right assessment is the best marker of the level of learning . E-Classrooms provide the benefits of continuous assessments through various digital tools. They also provide a different arena to multifarious activities. Open book assessment is a method that tests the creativity, precision and honesty of the student. Oral presentations, turn-coat debates, written pieces of creative writing and samples

of technical writing are learned easily with simulation and examples through digital platform. Google forms help in designing a professional looking paper. Children can also design their own question papers. This will prove to be a confidence buster. All these approaches of assessment are student friendly and also reduce the boredom of pen paper test. Moreover the tests cannot be the only way to assess the learner as they are incapable of the in depth analysis of the understanding level of the student. The new assessments help in developing logical reasoning and critical approach. A record of the performance of the students can be easily maintained through Google classrooms. Google forms provide a good way of conducting assessment tests of all levels. Various tools and apps also help in developing personalized assessment scheme. The growth of the learner's skills can be charted out in a better way through E-classrooms that have opened a new way for all the educators across the world. It has become possible for educators to connect together and guide the curious souls. The presentations and oral performances of the students can also be recorded. It can be used on continuous basis. The teacher's approach towards managing students helps a lot in creating the right classroom atmosphere. The educator needs to have information of Netspeak which is the new language of the internet culture. Children often use such language which creates confusion between grammatically correct text and the newly invented internet approved vocabulary. It is necessary to teach them that few words and abbreviations used by them mar the beauty of language and leads to errors and that there is a vast difference between writer's licence and degradation of language.

Right learning and proper assessment through digital media will help in providing integral education to the learner and prepare him for the modern world. Teachers have a big role to play in this time. They can very well deal with the problem of discipline by developing sensitivity and raising the emotional quotient of a child. The screen in between the learner and the educator must not become a restriction for value education. *The Mother* in her collected work volume 12 talks about the role of the teacher. The interest of the students is proportionate to the true capacity of the teacher. The individual attention of teacher and student –teacher relationship has major role in the earning of knowledge. India has preserved great wisdom. Teachers are the carrier of that wisdom from generation to generation. Their personality matters a lot, the mother further adds "the teacher who organises the studies must be a discerning psychologist, observant and full of goodwill" (377). It is the duty of a teacher to combine this wisdom with the criteria of education. The idea of spiritual unity that inspired our civilization must be revealed through the duties of the educator. E-Classrooms can be managed well if the educator is proficient in the art of incorporating those activities in the teaching that do not get a chance to be expressed due to normal classroom. E-platform helps in bringing a large number of learners together under a common roof and at the same platform. The most important benefit of this is the access to information in a connected manner through hypertext and through plethora of resources instead of linear processing by teacher.

Every aspect has its repercussions too. It has to be treated as a medicine that acts as a balm if applied in right quantity otherwise it can sting as sharp venom. The keenness of educator

helps in deciding the space that must be given to the learners so that technology may not be misused. The challenges of digital world can be met with by setting boundaries and time limits as the attraction of digital world makes children fall under the temptation of various sorts of distractions. Project method almost fails through this medium where students can always cut and paste the information thus compromising with their authenticity.

In the book, *Language in the digital Era: challenges and perspectives,* Mary.P.Sheridan talks about digital education. She says, "Education is changing, and digital work is both reflective and instrumental for these changes. Yet, whereas digital technology has long been central in many academic arenas, it has received mixed reviews..."(Dejica 2). Now it has become clear that neither the tables can be turned not the situation be reversed. This dependence in technology for teaching and learning will go on. The educators will agree with this great transformation that has come in the landscape of education. Hence there is an urgent need to get over all the challenges through focus upon changed in depth goals of learning, new approaches to pedagogy and educational philosophy and use of technology to reach to the learners in an interesting and engaging way.

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