Importance of ICT in schools

ICT is changing people lives everywhere. This goes from the home to the office. No matter who the person is they will have come into contact with ICT and it will have helped them in some way. Three areas where ICT has changed are:

It is these I will be discussing. The first is individuals. ICT has a big impact on people in their everyday lives and is affecting people in different ways. Technology is all around us but most people do not realize. It is taken for granted because of how common it is. The way it is changing people lives is though things such as the internet and mobile phones. Most people now have access to the internet whether it is at home or in the local Library. It is allowing people to find whatever information they want whenever they need it. We can also talk to people all over the world for free through instant messenger programs and Email. Mobile phones are allowing us to communicate at anytime anywhere we are. This means that people no longer have to either look for a phone box or have to wait until they get home to talk to someone. We can now phone people wherever we are even if on the other side of the country. We can just pick up a mobile phone and talk. This is making life better for people because before this technology people couldn't keep in touch easily and it could cost quite a lot of money to do so. Now we can communicate where ever we are. The bad points about this technology are the fact that people who do not have access are left out. Also this technology can be expensive and for some people it can be quite hard to learn how to use and so they are left behind and some people like the old ways. Another disadvantage is people hacking and theft. Because of mobile phone there are more people being mugged in the street for their phone.

ICT can be used in three ways at schools: for teachers to presentation, assess and monitor knowledge; to enhance administrative work; as "learning content in relationship to students' information literacy".

STUDENTS:

Over the past few years, several large-scale international studies have documented the successful integration of ICT in schools. These research studies have shown that ICT facilitates the acquisition of higher order thinking skills by providing cognitive scaffoldings for students as they make sense of the information gathered; allowing experts, teachers and students to

...ts in subject matters and simulating real-life situations ...re the connections between concepts and ideas.

21st century children choose to look for answers to their questions on the internet. Also, students who had followed ICT courses had more possibilities of being employed as most of the jobs nowadays require a good knowledge of ICT.

Research studies have brought forward the fact that the use of ICT as well as other teaching strategies has enabled students to move to higher-order thinking. Thus, students develop

constructive thinking skills. As a result the students are learning in order to prepare themselves for the future information age. ICT can be used to enhance student understanding thus increasing the quality of Education.

In addition, noted the advantages of ICT for students and they may be as such: the students are more motivated and as such they become more creative when they are faced with new learning environments. Also, they are prone to assimilate in a disciplined way working collaboratively with their peers. As a result, they are able to generate knowledge. They will have the capacity to handle rapid change in any type of environment.

Some theorists acknowledge that ICT can help students to become knowledgeable, reduce the extent to which direct instructions are given to them, and give educators a chance to help those students with special educational needs.

EDUCATORS:

The integration of technology in schools has brought about changes to teachers' roles in the classroom. The classrooms where technology is being used have their teachers often compared to that of a facilitator or coach rather than a lecturer. As educators use ICT in classroom, their teachings are proved to be very fruitful. Hence, in order to be at such level training is a must for all educators so that they acquire sufficient expertise for effective teaching. As a pedagogical tool ICT can provide a new framework so as to improve teaching. Hence, learning will be done in a collaborative, project-based as well as self-paced way.

As students become more independent, teachers who are not familiar to act as facilitators or coaches may not understand how technology can be used as part of activities that are not teacher-directed. This is a situation where the teacher gets an excellent opportunity to learn from the students as well as to model being an information seeker, lifelong learner and risk taker.

As part of their job requirements, teachers are expected to use technology tools in many cases. As technology continue to impact on teaching and learning, expectations on teachers to exploit technological advantages will rise, leading teachers to experience the pressures of having to toggle between pedagogy and technology in a seamless way. The extent to which this is well-executed depends on teachers' willingness to employ technology in teaching and learning. When teachers do not use technology the way it was designed to serve, the affordances of technology cannot be maximized for effective teaching and learning to take place. For this reason, many studies on technology acceptance have been conducted over the years and it appeared that these

n of factors that influenced technology acceptance among ersonal factors such as attitudes towards computers, computer self-efficacy, technical factors such as technological complexity and environmental factors such as facilitating conditions.

ADMINISTRATORS:

In fact, academic institutions typically lag businesses by roughly a decade in the adoption of new technologies. This is certainly true in terms of the application of ICT into the learning process: the blackboard and chalk remain the primary teaching technologies in many schools even while the merits of ICT to improve communication, efficiency, and decision making in organizations are recognized and inculcated by researchers.

ICT is important because of the expansive use of automated systems in all activities. ICT has become important in research, library, documentation, etc. Technologies have opened a new door for human activities. In view of increasing productivity, ICT should be seen as a very important tool in education from classroom to the top management team. ICT play the role of diminishing the burden of the administration of the school, hence there will be the prevalence of a more effective as well as integrated flow of information among teachers, students and non-teaching staff.

Conclusion

The effective integration of ICT in a learning environment depends on the way ICT is situated within that larger social cultural milieu. As ICT enters the socio-cultural setting of the school, it "weaves itself into the learning in many more ways than its original promoters could possibly have anticipated". There is a context for the ICT experiences that encompasses activities peripheral to the particular times and formats of the ICT interaction itself.

Our study has provided insight into the nature of students' and educators' thinking processes on the potential level of ICT integration in the Mauritian context. The findings suggest that successful ICT integration is clearly related to the processes within the classroom such as teacher beliefs, teacher efficacies and teacher attitudes as well as student participation and student interest towards ICT.

Also, ICT is an important tool in the educational procedure. This study investigates how gender poses as a factor that influences the integration of ICT in secondary schools. Referring to our aim of the study which is assessing the level of integration of ICT in the secondary schools in Mauritius, it can be concluded that ICT has effectively and efficiently been integrated in the secondary schools of Mauritius but nevertheless, there are improvements to be brought about to the proper functioning of the technology tools in the education sector to enhance the teaching and learning process.