

Role of Teachers to Create Computer/IT Awareness and Literacy in Students of U.G. and P.G. Classes

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Abstract

As the demand for computer literates is increasing at rapid pace, possessing computer skills is an important task for a college or University students and thus role of teachers in creating and providing computer literacy/awareness has also become very important. Today computer literacy/IT awareness is being included as integral part of education system in India so role of teachers is vital to this subject. The education system today cannot be successful without computer literacy. Hence a good computer knowledge given by teacher improves the quality of study program for students. In this paper we shall discuss the "Role of teachers to create computer awareness among students of U.G. & P.G. classes" which will help to access the importance of Computer/IT Awareness & literacy in Present scenario. This paper will be an attempt to lay emphasis & need of computer awareness by teachers to student.

Keywords

Computer Technology, Computer Awareness/Literacy, Information Technology

I. Introduction

India is a fast developing country having maximum population in the age group of 16-28 years. These adults form the knowledge base of India. Technology plays an important role in accelerating economic growth and promoting development due to which this age group need computer skills. Today there is wide range use of information & communication technologies so students studying in college at U.G. & P.G. level require such knowledge and role of teachers is vital to this subject. The systems of education today won't be successful without computer/ I.T Awareness and Computer Literacy.

Computer Literacy has become indispensable part of education systems and hence life systems. The advancement in field of computer knowledge helps a student to succeed in each sphere of life. But the fact is today students are in tremendous pressure & confused about computer Literacy and its Awareness. Teachers have become very important to create computer/I.T. Awareness & Literacy among students. Because they are the one who can disperse the immense knowledge of computer technology.

II. Information Technology & Computer Literacy

Information technology is the applications of computers and telecommunication equipment to store, retrieves transmit & manipulate data in various contexts. Educational systems around the world are using new information & communication technologies to teach students for knowledge and skill which they need in this century. Computer Literacy for students can be state as mixture of awareness knowledge and interaction with computer. Computer Literacy involves conceptual knowledge related to basic terminology and skills to perform task in word processing, database, spreadsheet, presentation graphics & base operating system function. Information technology is dynamic it helps teaches to have power to organize and improve effective

learning for students in the field of computers.

III. Literature Review

Though a huge amount of data related to computer technology is available on internet but the relevance of the role of teachers to create computer Literacy in students find some little place. Tharangaine, Wickremasinghe, Lakraj [6] had made an Assessment of computer awareness & Literacy among entry level university of Colombo graduates. Hampton & Schlesingers[4] studied "Computer Literacy for strategic planning for medical students". Patrikas and Newton [5] published a work on computer literacy. Effectiveness of computer based education in secondary schools was studied by Drowns & Kulik [1]. Barron & Goldman [2] thoroughly studied how to integrate technology with teacher preparation. A report on the effectiveness of micro computers in schools was published in 1998 by software publisher Association at Washington D.C. Xu Jun [3] had also studied "The Problem & strategies of multimedia technology in language teaching". We shall here discussing guidelines which teachers are providing to their students at U.G & P.G. level in computer technology field.

IV. Contribution of Computer/IT Awareness in Teaching Learning

New methods and techniques in information technology have become important tool in learning. Today information technology has contributed exclusively as a teaching tool in classroom; computer and teaching have gone hand in hand now for a very long time. Lectures through use of computer technology provide dominant form of teaching method for teachers. The use of technology has changed the pace of teaching methods and strategies. Computer literacy proves beneficial in learning and teaching. For teachers computer awareness/literacy helps in the following ways –

- It promotes students learning as some times traditional teaching obstructs student's capacity of comprehending and imagination. Use of computers/IT makes learner more accessible to information and offers them a sense of reality. Interactive boards, smart boards are quite beneficial in making teaching and learning interesting through representation of abstract ideas. Thus it makes students active to take part in classroom activities.
- Computer/IT Literacy in students improves teaching impact as through it a teacher could provide students choice of multimedia, software, application and devices which create more exciting and interactive lessons. The use of the new technology enrich teaching content, make the best of the class time and serve a large strength of student at one time.
- Computer/IT literacy and awareness in students could establish a better interaction between a teacher and student. A special feature of computer literacy in students is that it helps to improve the students' ability to listen and speak and to develop their communicative competence.
- With advent of e-books, a learner not only can read content electronically but could produce interactive written work of

his/her own with image, audio and interactive hyperlinks. Use of blogs improves writing skills and promotes active learning.

- The advantages of computers in education include an efficient storage, rendition of information, quick information processing and very importantly saving of paper. The process of learning today has gone beyond learning from prescribed books to ocean of knowledge on Internet so aspirers satiate their thirst for knowledge by the means of internet.
- Online education has revolutionized the education industry it had made dream of distance learning reality. Education is no more limited to classrooms. Physically distant places have come closer to each other only due to computer networking which has helped teachers to increase their reach to every part of the world.
- It promotes one's career in right direction as today computers are a part of almost every industry. Introducing computers early in education lays the foundation of the most of the major competitive careers. As most of the jobs involve the use of computer, computer education is an eligibility criterion for almost all of the modern day jobs at national and international level. Thus computer literacy/awareness opens doors for brighter job opportunities.

V. Teacher's Responsibilities

Without the knowledge of computer/information technology it's very difficult to survive in this modern world as it plays essential role in day to day life. Being a teacher it has become compulsory to be computer savvy and provide knowledge of computers and information technology to students. It is today primary role of teacher to create computer/IT awareness among the students at college and university level. Teacher should provide guidance to students to choose use of new technology in their studies. Teachers should be able to meet the needs of students of varying abilities in field of computer awareness through motivation and starting with the basic concepts. For teachers it is required that they become good role model and themselves use the computer technology in the day to day functioning.

An effective use of computer/IT awareness in students of UG and PG level by a teacher could create a deep sense of responsibility in them. Responsibilities in students developed by use of computer literacy by teachers could be classified as:-

- Responsibility towards education
- Responsibility towards his job.
- Responsibility towards parent and society.
- Responsibility towards National and International Issue etc.

Thus a good teacher should be able to create, these responsibilities in students through computer awareness and literacy.

VI. Conclusion

The use of computers and technology in education has changed the teaching and learning process of students in several ways and helped them to enhance their education process in a very short period of time. Internet has reduced the gap in teaching process. Today teachers effectively use computer for teaching, giving presentation, assessing data, maintaining data, communicating and preparing students to have a competitive edge in the global job market. Through the use of computer technology teachers could help students to submit their notes and assignments as soft copies so the process becomes paperless, thus saving paper and hence environment. Thus through the use of computer Awareness

/Literacy teacher are making their students scientific, creative, engineering advance to become highly skilled professionals and a responsible citizens of country.

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