SMARTPHONES AS AN EDUCATIONAL TOOL: BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES

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ASBTRACT

Smartphones are one of the most powerful technological gadgets of modern times, significantly influencing various aspects of daily life, including education. Initially viewed as distractions in classrooms, smartphones are now recognized as valuable tools that enhance both teaching and learning. This paper explores the advantages of using smartphones in education, such as their role in improving vocabulary, facilitating independent learning, and providing interactive learning experiences. Despite the benefits, concerns remain regarding potential distractions. This paper examines both perspectives, highlighting the importance of balanced smartphone usage in education.

Keywords: Smartphones, Educational Technology, Digital Learning, Vocabulary Development, Classroom Integration

INTRODUCTION

Technology has become an indispensable part of modern education, with smartphones emerging as a key tool for students and teachers alike. In the past, many educational institutions viewed smartphones as disruptive elements, often banning their use in classrooms. However, the increasing integration of digital learning tools has led educators and policymakers to recognize the significant benefits that smartphones offer in facilitating education. With the rise of mobile applications, online learning platforms, and interactive tools, smartphones now play an essential role in modern education, particularly in language learning and skill development.

Smartphones are the most powerful technological gadgets of the current time and its multi-functional features have made it a very important part of the everyday routine for almost all people. Smartphones play a very significant role in almost every-thing an individual does in the day to day work. It is recognized as an important tool of work, entertainment, learning, teaching, etc. In addition to its effectiveness in different aspects of life, smartphones have also been recognized as an important educational tool that facilitates both learning and teaching process in the field of education. According to mobile technology is considered to be the recognized face of educational applications for the recent technologies. Although, many colleges and institutions did not welcome the use of smartphones by students during school hours previously and its use was recognized as a disruption for students' learning, however, with the vast beneficial features that smartphones offer specifically for the benefit of learning and teaching, educators and policy makers in the field of education are already recognizing

the smartphones as a powerful educational tool that could be used both by the students and teachers to facilitate their learning or teaching process. In addition, students of the 21st century are so much attached to the technological trends and it would be hard for them to even imagine not using it in their everyday life. According to students in colleges cannot stand it longer without checking their technological devices such as smartphones, laptops etc. When it comes to technology, students are the usually the first to jump into it and try the new technology and it is most likely that they would do innovation in finding new ways of utilizing the available technology, thus the study of smartphone use among students has to be of particular significance.[1] However, mobile phones in the classroom have always been a controversial topic. Some teachers worry about the potential for student distraction, while others have decided to use them because they offer some positive learning benefits[2]. The reality is that students, especially those ages 12-18, use smartphones on a daily basis. For most, smartphones are their device of choice, and nearly all 95% of all teens have them (Pew Research, 2018). Because this device is so commonplace, it makes sense to leverage its benefits.

Furthermore, mobile phones and apps can help students to improve their vocabulary. As we all know, advantages of technology are more cheap, comfortable, modern, fast, effective, reliable and interactive than traditional way. Moreover, during the learning process learners have an opportunity to be good working with computer. They are able to communicate easily and clearly. The more use appropriate words during their speech the better listener can understand them Additionally, it is not so difficult to express their feelings, opinions and knowledge at the second language if they have enlarged vocabulary. It is irrefutable fact that technology is getting increase more and more in every sphere of our life nowadays, as well as educational system, especially, in language learning. Furthermore, the government pays great attention to develop ICT in educational system. It can be reasonable proof that the first President 1. Karimov declared a law which was about creating informational portal, Ziyonet, on September 28, 2005. As a result, using technology helps improve quality of education, moreover, inventions of 21 century give a chance learners to make themlearning process easy and effective. In addition, these days English language learners can't imagine the learning procedure without gadgets, digital tools, internet, computer and multimedia. They are also extremely helpful to expand range of vocabulary. Actually, even within modem developing visual world, words play a role as a primary means of communication. It is demandable that learners should have enough vocabulary to become an effective language learner . It is real fact that using multimedia is not so complicated to learn new words by heart. So, there are a number of ways to improve vocabulary by using mobile devices. They are:

Using mobile phones. Using mobile phones can provide comfortable and effective atmosphere of studying words for three reasons. At the first place learners can

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[1] Tileston, D.W. 2003 "What every teacher should know about Media and Technology Thousand Oaks, CA Corwin Press.

[2] Sarimsakova, D. (2019). Communicative competence as a result of EF teaching and learning ISJ Theoretical & Applied Science, 12 (80), 166-169 https://dx. doi. org/10.15863. In TAS (Vol. 80)

expand their vocabulary by listening, records in their mobile phones, According to human being's nature young people tend to listen to music so that learners may record new words in their devices as their favorite and adorable songs or music. And then they can listen and sing those records. Perfect proof of how this strategy is useful is a film "Ron Clark" which is about a skillful school teacher. That teacher creates a new lyric which consists of numerous and difficult to memorize names and years of Presidents of USA for modern music. As a result, his students do their best during exams. At the second place, by changing language of mobile phones into English, learners can learn new technical words unplanned way when they come across those words a lot. Moreover, learners can save name of people linked with new words, for example, if learners should learn the word "Stubborn", they can save name of person who is stubborn by nature. At the third place learners can utilize e-dictionary instead of real dictionary books. E-dictionary does not only help to find new words easily and quickly, but also can provide with pronunciation of those words.

Using online websites and vocabulary software of games. Internet consists of majority of online websites to learn English autonomously. Generally speaking, some learners do not have ability to know what they should do or learn for their improvement. At that time, websites can be helpful for them. English websites provide very essential and important words for English learners. In that websites, not only learners can learn new words, but can check their pronunciation too. Additionally, those websites have a great supply of useful tests, handouts crossword puzzles and so forth. Those websites do not demand to waste time and money to go somewhere; learners just sit in a corner of the room and can gain knowledge as the same with ordinary tutor classes. Some suggested websites are MyEnglishTeacher.eu on Facebook, Babble, and English Vocabulary Dictionary (created by MyEnglishTeacher.eu itself)

Secondly, most of people have come up with different solutions and ideas which are a bit boring to expand vocabulary. But what about the joy of playing games in learning process? It has been proven by several experiments that playing games have their important role in learning process. Because when learners are bored in reading, writing words, they can play interesting games on their mobile phones even in crowded bus or taxi conveniently. As we know the objects which are remembered every day are more memorable (2). On the other hand, there are a number of advantages to play games in learning process:

Learners do not get bored

Learners can keep their time properly (instead of playing different games they play English games at the time they want to play something on their mobile phones)

Speed and quality of learning process is getting better by learning from visual and audio materials.

Learners can be motivated by relax able music, different pictures and funny figures of games.

In fact, there are majority of games in Google play. Some suggested games are Learn English Vocabulary, Vocabulary Builder, Power Vocabulary Word Game, Volt Vocabulary

3. Using computers. While reaching top of improvement, computer is also advisable tool. Learners can watch English movies or different videos related to specific

topics. It is a true fact that just learning new words by heart is not enough to enlarge vocabulary. The less the words are used in real life, the more they are forgotten. According to traditional way of teaching when we learn words we make a list of new words in our notebook. The main problem with learning new words is vocabulary list. Because we just focus on what words mean. But when we watch film learners can learn where and how words are used in reality. For example, learners learn "king" word. As we know from dictionary, it is "a man who rules a country because he is from a royal family (Longman dictionary)". But if learners learn the word "King" through watching films, it can be a title in front of a person (e.g King Arthur). On the other hand, "King" is used in idiom like "a king's ransom" which means "a very large amount of money". This way learners do not only learn what each word means, but also how it is used. Moreover, it is useful to watch film with subtitle, because there are many words which express feeling or sound such as murmur, twinkle. When something is twinkling in the film, the word "twinkling" is written with brackets and learners can understand and memorize easily. In this technological world, every person should invite digital tools into their business because of being efficient and unique way to develop quickly. Briefly speaking, using technology supports confident atmosphere of learning, active, interesting, encouraging learning in words that are essential to vocabulary development. Additionally, having idea how to use technology is main factor of becoming successful and strategic learner.

Literacy games and apps are also available online and for downloading, as well as reviews of educational software apps. Another great resource is a large variety of online books, often organized by subject, with the text and photos of each page easily seen on the screen by the student, who can click on the arrow to turn the page. For students who may not be keen on reading but love computers, online books can be useful teaching tool, as well as providing an easy way for a teacher to improve the classroom library. A great related feature of several websites is the information they support about the authors and illustrators of students' books. Pupils in our classrooms, the use of online applications is second nature. All we, as teachers and ICT coordinators, need do is introduce them to the on line apps that can help unlock their creativity and collaborative skills- and help their study, revision and organization.

The findings of the research are definitely useful and appropriate for teachers, according to the ways and approaches of using technological methods in the classroom are utilized in the experimental classroom.

In order to make the lesson more digital, technological devices are chosen to be used as follows:

Laptop. Laptop is admitted to be the best tool of the technological devices in education, since it gives thousands of functions to make the lesson easier and more interesting. The objective of the laptop is to use the e-platform to check student's attendance and evaluate them. Next objective of them is to use to put on music and tracks and show videos.

CONCLUSION

Smartphones have evolved from being viewed as classroom distractions to becoming essential tools for modern education. Their ability to provide instant access to learning materials, facilitate independent study, and enhance language acquisition

makes them invaluable in today's digital learning environment. However, to maximize their benefits, it is essential to implement proper regulations and ensure responsible usage. By balancing the advantages and challenges, educators can harness the power of smartphones to create an interactive, engaging, and effective learning experience for students.

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