Educational Philosophy and the Role of Technology

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One of my reasons for joining an Education master program is that I used to follow a learning path that worked for me perfectly and led me to one of the most prestigious schools in the country I lived in before. However, when I started my practical work, I was not able to pass the needed knowledge for my patients and trainees. Many stages of modification had been applied and worked fine back then, as most of my clients were old enough to be able to find a shared base of communication with me. However, the most shocking experience started when my children began to go to school. I have two boys who are attending a K-12 school system, and I cannot say that we have a positive learning experience together. Then I decided that if I want to, in my children's education, then I have to seek some formal knowledge to support my philosophy of learning, modify it, or even change it.

Nowadays, it is essential to encourage educators to learn about the learning theories to provide the ultimate support that students need inside the classroom. Learning theories assist educators in understanding the aspects of education and how to connect the theory with the teaching practices. Besides, it is also essential for educators to use evidence-based practices in instructional designing to constructing a robust educational curriculum. Adding the technology component to the instructional designing will allow me as an educator to meet the current and modern educational needs among students. Nowadays, digital literacy is higher among learners than before. Using digital learning and applying modern technology is essential to maintain the students' excitement and desire toward educational materials. As an education advocate, I would like to teach my current and future students how to utilize technology to facilitate their education and learning. Besides that, I would also like to introduce the concept of moderation in using technology as a proper precaution to avoid the consequences of overuse or misuse.

This is what helped me define my educational and teaching philosophy: Encourage students to be active participants in their education and spark their curiosity through the use of cooperation, collaboration, and integration of technology.

Back in time, knowledge used to be mainly acquired and gained through schooling systems. Teachers were the primary educators and the leading source for information. Teachers' classical methods were include explaining the topic to the students face to face inside the classroom. Regardless that this way of teaching might sound boring for nowadays' students, but it was the only way of education before, and many of the eager students were always ready to learn and enthusiastic about coming the next day.

The role of educators experienced a dramatical change within the last two decades. The New Medi Consortium (NMC) together cooperated with Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) released the NMC/ CoSn Horizon Report. The report highlighted the significant transforming in the teacher role from being " sag on the stage" to be the guide of the educational process. Moreover, the report discussed the strategic technological planning in education hand by hand with policy making. The report analyzed the importance of technical methods, implications, practical applications, and challenges in the educational field (NMC/ CoSn , 2017).

Changes in educational styles and methods can be related to different reasons. According to Ertmer & Newby, 2013, there are three main reasons behind the current transformation; the expansion of internet usage, the increased numbers of students who can utilize technology, and integrating the technology within the schools and the educational systems. (Ertmer & Newby, 2013). It is a norm nowadays to find a smartboard inside classrooms to facilitate the teaching. It is also common for young students to have google room's accounts to communicate with their teacher even after school hours. Learning is not upon teachers only anymore. Students are now participating in guiding and leading their learning experiences inside and outside the schools.

Finally, with all the benefits of utilizing technology, we should, as educators, parents, and teachers, admit that lifestyle is changing and bringing negatives alongside all the positives.

Many of the social and interaction skills that we used to gain and learn by socializing and interacting face to face are now missed due to current trends in education. However, we still need to teach those abilities and skills to the coming generation. Generally, I see that current schooling systems should concentrate on building skills such as problem-solving, analytical thinking, professional writing skills, money management, and conflict management which is what some public schools are piloting in the leadership program which they adopted to give the students an active role in their educational process (Tynes, 2007).

All modern trends and methods in education cannot be separated from our past and history; on the contrary, most of what we are teaching is currently based on the ancient learning theories and principles. Whatever we are practicing in our education is an evolution of what our ancestors established. The philosophical aspect of culture started since 384 BC, when Aristotle termed the individual experience as a significant source of knowledge with empiricism (Ertmer & Newby, 2013). After that, a detour in educational philosophy shifted the practicing of education to be based on constructivism, cognitivism, and behaviorism. B.F. Skinner and J. B. Watson were the pioneers in behaviorism; in the 1950s, they explained that learning is acquired as a response to environmental stimuli or circumstances, and it is not an effort that is made to assess mental activities (Moore, 2011).

Following came the cognitivism 1960s by philosophers Robert Gagne and Jerome Brune. Cognitivism focuses on the students' conceptualization of learning and focuses on the problems of the information perception, organizing and storing within the students' minds (Ertmer, 2013). Then came the constructivism by Jean Piaget and Lev Vygotsky. Constructivism participated in providing a different understanding of teaching and learning, the concept of constructivism evolved by time when the need of it came up, it was not among the earliest philosophies and this is a clear example that education is a dynamic process that will keep changing and evolving by time to meet the learner needs and the changes in the learning trends and movements(Reiser

& Dempsey, 2012).

Learning about the theories of education while studding about the technology of education helped me in reforming the vision I had for myself when I started my degree in Instructional Technology. My main reason behind joining the program was to be able to conduct and apply the web-medicine, distance medicine, and e-health practices professionally, but I ended up gaining skills in building materials based on educational theories and philosophies which help in making learning smoother and more meaningful.

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