The Use of Technology in Education to Improve Student's Reading Skills in Elementary Schools, Saudi Arabia

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Introduction

Education plays an important role in increasing community awareness as well as improving the quality of life. Thus, education is an essential part in the community. For this purposes, governments should spend large amount of their budget on educational infrastructure, For example, ministry of education should buy the most advanced technology to integrate it into the classroom because integrating technology into a classroom helps students understand more than the traditional method. The technology can include tablets, laptops, and smart board and it improves the learning process by making it understandable. Due to the importance of computer technology in education it should available on the internet and educational programs. This technology raises the level of the student and the teacher.

At present, there has been information revolution that caused a series of changes affecting the education, in form and substance, and the concept and dimensions. The most important of these changes, which have occurred for books and reading skills, which became associated technologies today. Therefore, the specialists in the field of education should put software and technology to improve the level of reading to students. Due of the reading of basic skills, which focuses on modern education systems. Thus, they help learners to acquire knowledge and other skills.

The author of this study was a teacher in Saudi Arabia who had an experience with students and witnessed how the low level of students in reading. As a result, the author realized that new generation of the students likes to use the technology in their daily life. Therefore, integrating the technology into the reading skills will help to make the learning process more enjoyable. Hence, the purpose of this study is to investigate implementation of education technology to improve the level of students in the reading skills in rural area in Saudi Arabia.

Research Question

How to implementing educational technology to improve students' performance in elementary schools in Saudi Arabia?

Rationale

As a matter of fact, the author discovered that a lot of studies about ET, but they did not contain enough information about how to integrate these technologies into classrooms. On the other hand, teachers in elementary schools who used technology in the education process noticed that students have more interaction to the process of education. Clearly, the use of technology in education does not mean just the use of modern machinery, but means a ways of thinking for the development of educational system by the use of modern equipment. Therefore, technology may create a learning environment suitable for children. Moreover, studies show that daily usage of technology helps the students to understand the using of computer (Thomas, 2011), and as a result, student will gain the required skills by the universities. (Pearson, 2010) shows the use of technology in the classroom supports learning and the process of education. (Pearson, 2010).

Consequently, this study will show that students who use technology in the classroom improve their learning, especially in elementary schools. Thus, the use of technology has been consumed to support the process of education. Therefore, the teacher and student interaction becomes more efficient.

Limitations

This study has been conducted within only seven weeks, which is insufficient for the researcher to monitor all of the students and their progress. In addition, the sample should include larger groups of teachers and students from elementary school to achieve the goal of this study. Moreover, the human factors might alter the findings of the study. Such as teachers who are teaching in these schools.

Definition of Terms

Education Technology- implementing the technology in education to enhance student learning.

ET- Education of technology.
PC- A personal computer.
Traditional method- Chalkboard, chalk, book, and notebook.

Literature Review

Education technology is a systematic operation used to design the process of learning and education in order to develop and raise the adequacy students and teachers. Thus, the use of technology in classrooms increases the efficiency of the educational system. In addition, the use of technology in classrooms encourages the students to use the technology in the future. For this reasons, the existence of education technology in schools is important for students and teachers. Therefore, schools in the cities rely on modern technology to development the reading skills of students by providing trained teachers and modern tools. However, schools in rural area still have issues of having education technology due to the lack of money and untrained teachers to practice techniques in their curriculum. Therefore, it is important to train the teachers to employ the technology in schools for helping students to use it.

According to Efe (2011), teachers should develop their skills and knowledge to use technology because the ability of the trained teachers determines their ability to use technology in the classroom and with students. In this useful study, the author shows the importance of having trained teachers in schools. Moreover, school officials must support the use of technology in the education. Additionally, they must provide the appropriate conditions and good training for teachers.

However, it is interesting to understand the outcomes from the using technologies in classrooms and the importance of its role to supporting reading skills. Similar to Efe (2011), Robinson and Sebba (2010) found that the use of technology supported and develop the reading skills of students. This in turn creates well prepare students in reading. This important study, the authors believe that the provision of technology in classrooms paves the way to a good teaching.

Furthermore, Chen (2010) mentioned that the level of student changed in schools that used technology in the educational process but this change depended on the teachers. In this significant study, the author found that the use of technology in classrooms improved the educational level. In fact, this change is based on teachers' skills, and their ability to use education to provide support and guidance for students.

Consequently, the purpose of these studies to explain two important factors. The first factor, ministry of education should employ education technology at schools. The second factor, teachers should be trained to use and integrate the technology into classroom and curriculum. Therefore, the goal in this study is utilization new technologies to upgrading standard of students in reading through the use of educational technology by experienced teachers in technical. Thus, this study should achieve the potential benefits from increase the level of awareness of teachers in schools in Saudi Arabia.

Methodology

The Sample

The sample of this research consisted of 40 females' students and 20 females' teachers. The students were in the age of 7 to 12 years. The teachers were bachelor degree holders with little to no experience using education technology. Computer generating program chose all participants randomly. Half of them are from an elementary school that uses education technology and the other half is from an elementary school that did not use education technology. In addition, the two elementary schools were in Hail city in Saudi Arabia.

Instrument

The instrument of this study had two parts. First part was a paper-based reading skill question of twenty questions total. The question type were a scale from 1 to 5 whereas 1 (Always) and 5 (Never). For example, Do you spend an hour in reading per day. The second part was a questionnaire with teachers and the interview contain 20 open-ended questions. For instance, what are the pros and cons of using education technology to support reading skills in the classroom?

Procedure

The procedure of this study was as following. At the beginning of the year, the students took the paper-based reading skill question to their home for three days to answers the questions with the help of their parents. Then, the students returned the paper-based to school. After that comparison between level students in the two schools. Then, the interview with teachers to talk at the schools for one hour per teacher

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