

# The Smart Use of Technology in Education

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— Abstract —

Some educators habitually lean to using technology in the classroom and jump on trends by testing apps and websites, custom-made for teaching and learning, the first chance they get. Technology in education manages technological processes and educational resources to help improve user academic performance. But there are some definite disadvantages of using technology as well. This paper discusses the consequences of building elements of technology into instructional practices and shares personal reservations about including forms of technology in the classroom.

**Key Words:** *principles of using technology, technology in education, technology in the classroom, consequences of technology.*

## **Introduction**

Digital tools are used to support both teacher and students everywhere around the world on a regular basis. The proper use of technology can improve the experience of teaching and learning in the classroom and make it easier to access information. But technology does not improve learning by its mere presence in the class. “Technology, in and of itself, does not necessarily result in fundamental improvements to educational practice” (Lai, 2008, p. 215–230). It needs guidance. If left untended, technology sabotages the benefits and harms the studies. With the benefits, digital technology has also bought many downsides.

### **The reservations of using technology in the classroom**

According to Branford et al., “technology does not guarantee effective learning,” and inappropriate use of technology can even hinder it. Technology can be harmful in the following ways :

1. “Students have always faced distractions ; computers and cellphones are a particular challenge because the stream of data can interfere with focusing and learning. Although these technologies affect adults too, young people may be more influenced by it as their developing brains can easily become habituated to switching tasks and become unaccustomed to sustaining attention” (Ritchel, 2010).
2. This is possible to be mislead by some of the information available online as they can be written by anyone without the proper authority. Photographs can be altered using editing tools and digital audio and video can be doctored. For these reasons, it is hard to believe anything found on the internet nowadays.
3. Though in today’s world, the internet has made students self-sufficient researchers, this can be overwhelming for many of them. Too much information, coming too rapidly, can hamper their thinking process. Teachers agree to the fact that there are far more information that actually needed and students have a hard time choosing the reliable source of information.

4. “New technologies are frequently accompanied by unrealistic hype and promise regarding their transformative power to change education for the better or in allowing better educational opportunities to reach the masses. Examples include silent film, broadcast radio, and television, none of which have maintained much of a foothold in the daily practices of mainstream, formal education” (Culp, Honey & Mandinach, 2005).
5. Technology provides students an increased potential for cheating. Students can hide smartphone very easily in the class. Data can be stored in the device and they can cheat effortlessly from it during exams. This is very common, especially where smartphones are allowed. During online classes, it is even more common and easier to cheat during quizzes.
6. Goodman (2020) writes, “Digital technology means that vast amounts of data can be collected and stored. This can be private information concerning individuals or organizations. It can be very difficult to keep this data safe. Just a single breach can mean vast amounts of private information going into the hands of criminals, terrorists, business rivals, foreign adversaries, or other malign entities”
7. Many students prefer plagiarism to actually learning something in class. Without really learning anything, students can copy-paste school projects with the blink of an eye with the help of technology. Almost everything is available on the internet, free of charge. In stead of using the information to write on their own, they simply copy everything and steal other’s ideas.

Because of these reasons, teachers have some reservations that come into their mind when they think about including activities that rely on forms of technology.

### **Balancing the concerns with the potential benefits**

However, most disadvantages can be overcome by proper instructions and technology can be used for the betterment of everyone and the teachers can use technology in the classroom making information accessing easier and learning more effective for students. Winthrop and Smith (2012) have listed seven principles for smart use of technology in education and shown that it can be beneficial in the following ways :

1. (solving) Educational problem first
2. Added value
3. Sustainability
4. Multiple uses
5. Lower cost
6. Reliability and
7. Ease of use

Students are more likely to need coaching than teachers anticipate, on how to use the technology they are assigned. If the technology is the type that includes content, teachers need to check it personally for consistency and accuracy, before letting the students use it as a source. They can select the information source themselves too, so that students do not get confused by the vast amount of open data. Teachers must assure that the students use reliable resources and learn from the factual contents only and they should also make sure the tools they have chosen are accessible on multiple devices and browsers.

Teachers should keep the using of technology at a minimal time, so the students get enough face to face reactions and they do not get distracted. Teachers should also check for plagiarism in every article submitted by the learners and check if the learners have any electronic device on their bodies before exams or quizzes. There are many plagiarism checker available online. Teachers should be able to secure personal data of every student.

## **Conclusion**

From apps, games and e-books to organizational platforms and websites, there's no shortage of technology in the classroom. When technology is brought into an educational setting, the pedagogical setting changes in that technology-driven teaching can change the entire meaning of an activity without adequate research validation. Technology can still transform education for the betterment of everyone, including the authorities. The disadvantages mentioned in this paper, can be managed with strict rules and regulations. While making decisions, teachers have

to be really mindful about how they will be using technology in the classroom and before considering technology options, they should keep the course goals and priorities in mind.

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