

## 21ST CENTURY EDUCATION: IMPACTS OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

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Technology has always blossomed for humanity's gain. It has improved people's lives in different fields such as medicine, work, education, and industry, especially education. It elevated most aspects and significantly changed the teaching-and-learning process through various materials, textbooks, and the internet.

During the early times, through the printing press's development, the technology significantly impacted education. It allowed students to use textbooks made by their teachers or, in those times, philosophers. Until now, the upgraded version of the printing press is still being used, not only in textbooks but also in many reading materials. The prevalence of technology today has changed the way students see education. With just a click, they can easily find the answers to the most challenging questions. They no longer need to go to different libraries to read tons of books to gather information.

Moreover, materials such as videos and 3D pictures helped them visualize the actual image only described by a textbook. But the advancement doesn't stop there. Technology has expanded the learning process outside the four corners of the classroom.

Nowadays, the trend is virtual schools. According to Friedman (2019), online education encompasses many topics, subject areas, disciplines, and degree programs. In the broadest terms, it is obtaining knowledge through instruction provided via the internet – this is more pedagogical rather than self-selected. The Department of Education also made steps to improve the classroom setting. Lynch (2018) stated that since students today are digital natives, they are more comfortable using such and will be more apt to

take ownership of their learning. Thus, the hindrances to education are somehow streamlined with these developments.

Students are not the only ones who were catered to by technology. Teachers also benefitted from the advancement of technology. Or did they? Technology has allowed both a more accessible and more complicated way of dealing with things inside the classroom. Indeed, it has been a great ally in enforcing an effective way of teaching the students.

On the other hand, to use technology, a teacher must first learn how to manipulate it before using it effectively. This has been the downfall of many seasoned teachers; not only do they no longer feel like using it but also, they deter from trying simply because of the physical incapability they already endure. However, to the younger generation of teachers, who are used to these advances, it is easier to manipulate and integrate these into the classroom. This is an advantage to the younger ones and excellent assistance to the seasoned ones. Together, technology can be fully maximized to improve the teaching and learning process.

At the very heart of all this, technology is among many keys to unlocking our progressive future. It may have some shortcomings at some point, but the totality of its advantages overpowers such. David Warlick, as mentioned by Thakur (2018), stated that technology is needed in every classroom, by every student and teacher because in our time, it is the pen and paper and the lens that lets us experience the much of our world. As we keep pace with these advancements, let us continue making the best of what technology offers.

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