

Revitalizing Education through Digitalization: Its Pros and Cons

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Abstract

This study examined the pros and cons of revitalizing education through digitalization. This work aimed at establishing the essence of the innovative idea of revitalizing education through digitalization by stipulating both its benefits and its detriments. This aim was made possible through the review of four (4) concepts to support the purpose of this study. The concepts reviewed brought about the interconnection between several intervening variables that help to understand the relationship between the main variables of the topic to ascertain the relationship as well as necessary requirements and impediments towards achieving it fully. It was found out that revitalizing education is easily made possible via digitalization, which has been made evident in some educational institutions in the society. It was concluded that the innovative idea of revitalizing education through digitalization concepts is a very much welcomed idea with much consideration towards the benefits that are attached to it but it has not been fully actualized based on some misappropriation constraints by respective concerned bodies for the development of educational system in the society. It was then recommended that educational instructors should create avenues by which digital technologies can be appropriately utilized for the sole purpose of achieving efficient and effective educational processes. It was also recommended that government and other concerned bodies should also create avenues for workshop trainings on digitalizing education towards equipping educational instructors on its concepts and their implementation.

Keywords: Digitalization and Revitalized Education.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The world as we see it today is not the same as the world as we know it back then and this can be accrued to the presence of the integration of advanced technologies that has taken over almost every sphere of the economy. These technological innovations have been broadly accepted and adopted based on the notion that they have the capability of fast-tracking the way and manner activities are being done highly functional, effective and efficient. These technological advancements can be said to be applicable in all sectors of the economy. The educational sector is not left out on this quest as well. The integration of technological essence into the prospect of education has gone a long way towards bringing about its essence into effective and efficient actualization. Education is very important for an individual's success in life. It can give a big impact on human opportunity in continuing their life quality. Education is generally seen as the foundation of

society which brings economic wealth, social prosperity and political stability. Economic and social status depends on education obtained by individual since education contributes to individual capability in managing quality of life.

Education in Traditional Era

The history of impacting knowledge into the younger generation in Nigeria is as old as humans in the society. This can be said to be so based on the context of learning being a continuous process that has brought about the diverse change that have been seen observable in the world (Omolola, 2018). Human beings around the Niger areas have been transferring knowledge, skills, values, norms, belief and the acceptable attitude to their younger generations long before the advent of the Europeans. These transfer processes is of essence towards bringing about the equitable of the importance of education to the society in the first instance.

Although, skills, values and knowledge transmitted during the period were not written anywhere but they were carefully engraved in the hearts of every citizen and the generations that received the education became a lot better under the system. The society cared greatly for their next generation and the people lived collectively in peace and harmony (Omolola, 2018). These harmonious constraints of the people in the society that is attached to education is very much prominent towards bringing about the needed advancement in the development and growth that has been accrued to the world at large from the ancient period to the modern period as we see it now.

In the traditional essence of the country, people thought of one another and the culture of the people did not permit them to be unkind to one another. Before the introduction of colonial system of government, all the ethnic groups in Nigeria such as, Yoruba, Hausa, and Igbo had their own traditional citizenship education, social values, legal and civic right and duties which they taught and expected their people to follow in their day-to-day activities. These brought about the promotion of essential values by the people of the country, thereby fostering a huge notion of harmonious living between the people. All these values, rights, duties and obligations were passed orally from one generation to another as part of their cultures, but with the coming of the Europeans the much-celebrated culture and value became less emphasized because the African indigenous culture was tagged barbaric and uncivilized (Okafor, 1987).

The introduction of reading and writing which started with the coming of the Europeans in 1842 shifted attention from the traditional values of hard work, discipline, honesty, truth, responsibility, self-reliance, commitment, respect for lives and properties to the classrooms where reading, writing and memorization were done without recourse to the traditional values, this led to value disintegration where citizens no longer cared for one another. The traditional values and education became less important and citizens became less concerned about the well-being of each other. Furthering up on this, Adeyinka and Babarinde (2011) ascertained that the one-time extended family structure where older family members took care of their younger generation was gradually eroded by the new family structure of "nuclear" family.

Education in the Modern Era

Modern education today, some argue, easily integrates and adjusts to new technological developments through flexible curricula in the areas where these developments are taking place, such as in the field of information technology or in the widespread use of the Internet. However, modern education can be criticized for ignoring or failing to lead societies toward a more humane future in the face of massive social and ecological change. When it decides to encounter those

social problems, the solutions that modern education procures are usually based on a fragmented or reductionist mindset that insulates them from many of the factors generating these problems and their interconnections.

Modern education is a new branch of education, based on modern teaching theory as a guide and science and technology as a means, scientifically integrating teaching process and learning resources, the theory and practice of achieving the purpose of teaching optimization. According to Sun (2017), modern education emphasizes the improvement of traditional teaching methods and teaching skills, pay attention to the rational use of teaching media in the teaching process, optimize the teaching process, and thus improve the quality of education and teaching. The scientific application of modern educational technology in practical teaching has made great changes in teaching communication methods, teaching content presentation methods, teaching methods and teaching organization forms, and has led to fundamental changes in the related educational concepts, educational system and so on, breaking the traditional education model, pooling a new era of breath into the entire education and teaching process.

Sun (2017) further stipulated that modern education, since its eminence, has the following influence on educational activities:

- 1) Making the learners in different places communicate with teachers through the Internet and through satellite transmission and interactive TV. The traditional class teaching system model, teaching activities and teaching organization produce a fundamental change.
- 2) Taking scattered teaching content and teaching examples together and form a system to optimize the teaching content and teaching process, and then improve teaching efficiency and teaching quality.
- 3) Using media tools to simulate the reality, to solve abstract teaching content in the traditional teaching process, making the whole learner in learning process has a strong intuitive and self-operation, conducive to learners to carry out image understanding analysis, so that learners in their learning process tends to take the initiative, in a dominant position.
- 4) Realizing two-way interaction between teachers and learners in the process of teaching and learning. Learners use their computers to develop their own learning methods according to their own learning habits. Teachers use the specific teaching software to evaluate learners' learning results. It fundamentally realized the differentiation of learners' learning, and embodied the teaching principles of "teaching students in accordance with their aptitude".

- 5) Using a variety of modern communication technology for information exchange and transmission, so that modern distance learning becomes possible. Not limited to time and space, learners can through the network to learn effectively, significantly reducing learning costs.

Pros of Revitalizing Education through Digitization

In the 21st century, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has become the main medium through which people are socially, economically and culturally empowered as individuals and easily connected as nodes in various types of networks (Harari, 2018). In order to acclimatize themselves to an ever-changing life and work environment, people need to learn rapidly and more than in the ancient times, depending mainly on ICT for this purpose. The use of technology allowing people to learn anytime and anywhere is coined in academia, media and software industry as eLearning. Initially used to designate instruction delivered via a computer in teaching and learning, usually in a structured, formal environment, the term eLearning is now extended to basically any learning process mediated by Internet and/or a digital device (Sun, Tsai, Finger, Chen & Yeh, 2008), which is in other words termed as electronic learning or e-learning system.

As asserted by Hussain (2012), E-learning represents the use of ICT in education, regardless if learning takes places individually or in a group, online or offline, synchronous or asynchronous, mediated by computers or by other devices, connected or not in a network. Modern teaching materials are very crucial and most preferred in the digitalize world. A modern education system uses technology to impart knowledge. Digitization of education system is an opportunity to develop a cognitive resource-based mechanism in learners and improve the skills, lifelong learning and continuous education. Digitization produces information that can be conveyed in many different methods (Abdullahi&Tijani, 2019). It brings about democracy of knowledge where education becomes a collaborative and self- driven enterprise. Nowadays, there are tools available to transform learning from an academic exercise to an engaging experience gamification and collaborative learning.

Digitization in education system improves effective management of education to operate efficiently and proactively in term of adequate supervision of learners and regular assessment of pupils' activities in the classroom. Digitization in education is the process of turning traditional methods of teaching such as paper document, sounds and more to a digital format that can be understood by pupils or students toward the achievement of educational goals and objectives (Falasteen, 2018).

Using E-Learning tools, learners have the power to personalize their education. Online courses usage helps learners in a very pragmatic way, because it allows them to replay parts of a lesson if they did not master certain aspects, without having to feel embarrassed by the fact that they understand some concepts slower. In addition, the lecturer can see where students have problems, relying on the frequency with which students access and replay specific parts of an online lesson. With the help of this information, that wasn't available some years ago, teachers can make precise adjustments to the curriculum, making them more effective.

Cons of Revitalizing Education through Digitization

Individuals are tempted to use the Internet and smart devices in an unlimited way, not just for information and learning. People become addicted to the Internet when they completely separate themselves from their real life. Today, this phenomenon is very common especially among young people. Many Internet users are changing their lifestyle drastically just to spend more time online and this starts to be very frightening. From a social perspective, this technological dependency has depreciated the occurrence of human interaction that is normally the base of classroom learning. Apart from the family, schools serve as a primary form of socialization. Deslarzes and Grandjean (2013) claimed that if society's social formation base changes due to technology dependency, it is inevitable that society will also change, and it will also affect the way its members process information, learn and interact.

To further on this note, Chen, He, Gao, *et al.*, (2017) posited that students and pupils lack classical notes, which are replaced with notes on their laptop or tablet. In the era of technology, the pen is replaced by the keyboard. They ascertained that people are writing less by hand and this can slow down our brains, as more and more studies show, demonstrating that handwriting increases concentration, improves memory and may even drive away anxiety. Another negative aspect is the lack of dedicated attention to those things we are about to learn. When we use technology to learn and especially use content on the Internet, we are invaded by different options where you just have to click somewhere and get the access to your desired content - this makes it increasingly difficult to absorb and store information.

People who are permanently distracted by emails, notifications, and other messages understand less than those who can focus without being disturbed by any notification. The bad influence of the online interactions is another negative aspect of ICT use. Online communication has its benefits, but the big problem is the very possible chance of building a friendship with inappropriate people (Ramli, 2011). There is also the possibility of joining a wrong social

group, with an increased risk for developing psychological problems, related even to a criminal behaviour. In this sense, exposing negative influences leads to aggressive behaviour and erroneous ethical behaviour.

The use of the Internet can create an isolated social environment, thus endangering the quality and quantity of interpersonal relationships between individuals, increasing the negative impact on health and social life. Thus, online communication is seen as detrimental to the development of social skills (Perbawaningsih, 2013). In addition, Avogadro, Calegari and Dominoni, (2016) said that with the rapid progress of the technological dependency, a number of smart devices have emerged on the market. So, we are talking about another issue, includes technical difficulties, caused by device interface incompatibility or simply the lack of wireless Internet connection.

This problem has led to major decreases in the percentage of eLearning usage. And for the time being, only schools or people who can afford these tools, which are not at all cheap (laptops, smartphones, smartboards or projectors), can have privileged access to eLearning. Once these tools are obtained, there are also other necessary costs, such as Internet subscriptions and platform purchase fees. Although progress has been made with the government allocating funds for the acquisition of technology devices in classrooms, eLearning is currently an educational luxury (Deslarzes & Grandjean, 2013).

2. CONCLUSION

Based on what have been discussed thus far, it can therefore be concluded that the innovative idea of revitalizing education through digitalization concepts is a very much welcomed idea with much consideration towards the benefits that are attached to it but it has not been fully actualized based on some misappropriation constraints by respective concerned bodies for the development of educational system in the society.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on this, the following recommendations are stipulated as being attributable to bring about an efficient implementation of the revitalization of education through digitization:

- 1) Educational instructors should create avenues by which digital technologies can be appropriately utilized for the sole purpose of achieving efficient and effective educational processes.
- 2) Government and other concerned bodies should also create avenues for workshop trainings on digitalizing education towards equipping educational instructors on its concepts and their implementation.

- 3) School heads, government and other concerned bodies should initiate revenue for the support of digitalized education in our educational system.

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