Web 2.0 contribution to students learning/ Natalia Gordon

Abstract:

The present research examined the effectiveness and contribution of the wiki

environment (web 2.0 tool) which provides a collaborative learning environment. This

learning environment is based on experience and reflection, action and thinking that

are the basis of the 21st century learning.

For this research junior-high and high school students who used web 2.0 tools in their

studies were chosen from schools in Israel. They learned in the wiki environment in

the framework of their projects preparation parallel to the traditional learning

methods.

The research studied the usage, satisfaction and attitudes of the students towards the

learning using the web 2.0 tools and its contribution to their learning. The research

model tested how the usage of web 2.0 tools affected the students' attitudes towards

web 2.0 and their satisfaction from the learning through mediation.

The results have shown that the major factor for the change in learning was the

students' satisfaction from the learning with web 2.0 tools. It was observed that as the

students' satisfaction raises, their attitudes become more positive and they use more of

web 2.0 tools. As a result they feel improvement in their learning. Moreover, we've

found the difference between the schools. The second school students showed more

satisfaction and more positive attitudes than the first school students. The reason for

these distinctions was age differences between the students. Most of the first school

students were from the 10th grades and most of the second schools students from the

9th grades. The students' use of the internet depends on their age. The other significant

result was that there were no gender differences as it was expected. This can be

explained by new net-generation birth which uses web 2.0 tools. Nowadays, boys and

girls use internet widely in their learning and they are satisfied and show positive

attitudes when they study in distant learning environments. Innovative and various

opportunities which lay in the basis of the web 2.0 tolls attract the students due to

resemblance to their everyday life.

In addition, we've shown that wiki environment had to great extent importance in

guiding the learner in getting the desired educational outcomes by allowing an active

participation, critical thinking, social interaction, collaborative learning and dialog

that are the main factors for the efficient learning. The learning in wiki environment

enhanced the motivation, positive attitudes and satisfaction that consequently lead to

the learning improvement.

According to the past researches, there is an educational need to integrate the

innovative technologies into educational and learning activities. In order to make it

possible, the schools must adopt the strategies for innovative technologies integration

and support the teachers and students to make the integration successful.

The present research results emphasize the need to match the curriculum to the fast

developing world of the internet and new generation of learners. The technology

integration achieves two important objectives: learner' exposure to the world of

innovative technologies and significant improvement in the quality of learning. The

implementation of these objectives lead to students' attitudes improvement and

enhancement of their interest in learning. The integration of the internet advanced

applications into the traditional education can initiate the change in the fields of

teaching and learning and can reduce the gap between the school education and the

real life world of the students.

The research is intended to encourage the significant change in internet perception in

the teaching in present and to origin the change of the curriculum in the future.

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