

***“Television didn’t transform education. Neither will the internet. But it will be another tool for teachers to use in their effort to reach students in the classroom. It will also be a means by which students learn outside the classroom” – John Palfrey***

The emergence of information and knowledge society has placed formal education with challenges of completely new nature. The significance of networks and collaboration is being emphasized, the working environment becomes global and the development of information technology takes place at a speed that has no match in history. Higher Education graduates are facing a world of work completely different from the one previous generation have become familiar with. They are also required to have new types of skills in order to be successful in the evolving knowledge society working environment. Although these are perceived as characteristics of the generation of “digital natives”, they are hardly taken into consideration in formal education. The education sector has been blamed for lagging behind the development taking place outside the school doors. Even the use of information technology in education has not always yielded the desired outcomes; instead the new tools have been harnessed to serve traditional purposes. Industrial-era conceptions of teaching and learning have proven very hard to change. **The new generation of teachers is in a key role in building 21<sup>st</sup> century formal education.**

***We at School of Education & Research, MIT Art, Design & Technology University, Pune*** sought ways of helping pre-service and in-service teachers to acquire 21<sup>st</sup> century skills themselves and step into the world of the digital native learners, and also extending support in their professional growth by empowering them to find new perspectives to teaching and learning in the knowledge society. The novel approach involves collaborative social media assisted learning and promotion of networked expertise.

Thomas Edison once said, "Books will soon be obsolete in the public schools...our school system will be completely changed inside of ten years." His words resonates today’s educational scenario as the advances in information technology have revolutionized how people communicate and learn in nearly every aspect of modern life even for education. But somewhere it has been observed that technology has failed to transform our schools because the teachers are reluctant to change along with the times. Thus, the need of the hour is to persuade teachers that technology will empower them and help their students learn. For this the **schools must use technology that empowers teachers.** Teachers rightly reject education technologies that divert their attention from instruction. The best education technologies enable teachers to do more with fewer resources. Communication platforms like Twitter, Facebook, or Tumblr enable dynamic communication with students. Teacher-empowering technologies include mobile apps that grade can be used effectively. **Teachers should treat the adoption of technology as part of lesson planning.** Teachers can incorporate technology directly into their practice and systematic adoption of technology at the classroom levels will limit the damage of student wastage. **Teachers should not fear open-source technologies. Use online education portfolios to evaluate students,** as the teachers can choose from a variety of online portfolio providers tailored to the needs of their classroom. They also serve as a platform for students to demonstrate growth. Thus, teachers should use education technologies that are inexpensive, easy to use, and improve student learning.

I urge all my students and teacher educators to keep the following words of Stacy Behmer in mind - ***“Curriculum tells you what to teach, but doesn’t tell you HOW you have to, make the shift to the 21st century learning environment.”***

**Happy Imagineering Teaching!!!!!!**

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