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IMPACT OF BLOGS ON PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS FOR EFFECTIVE TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION TO ENHANCE THEIR TEACHING



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ABSTRACT:

It's no secret that the face of education has changed dramatically over the past years. Teachers across the country are working hard to equip children with the skills needed for success in the 21st century world. In addition to instilling in students the flexibility to readily adapt to changing technologies, teachers must foster learning environments that encourage critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving, communication, collaboration, global awareness, and social responsibility. So, there should be change in the preparation of preservice training in teacher education institutions. They should be aware of recent trends in educational technology. There is inevitability for current teacher educators to prepare prospective teachers for the boundless future ahead since they are going to

handle 21st century learners. This paper focuses on one of the innovative online technology called "Blogs".

KEYWORDS: education, Teachers, preservice training, technology, Blogs

INTRODUCTION

Who dares to teach

must never cease to learn - John Cotton Dana

Effective teaching methods engage gifted students, as well as slow-learning children and those with attention deficit tendencies. This is where differentiated instruction and a balanced mix of teaching styles can help reach all students in a given classroom. Today's teachers must develop instructional styles that work well in diverse classrooms. Teachers needed knowledge of appropriate technology integration strategies and ICT skills to effectively integrate technology into their lessons to optimize the benefits for their students' learning. With the advent of the knowledge era, teacher education needs to prepare prospective teachers to face the changing technological contexts and to model pedagogies and tools for better forms of



student learning.

Need and significance of the study

Laptops, tablets, internet, videoconferencing and podcasts in classrooms play a vital role in today's teaching styles. With technology in mind, it is imperative that teachers assess their students' knowledge while they are learning. Student-centric learning does not have to come at the expense of an instructor's preferred teaching method. However, differentiated instruction demands that teachers finesse their style to accommodate the diverse needs of 21st-century classrooms. The intention of this qualitative study is to propose a model of instructional approach for prospective teachers in their preservice teacher education to learn a new online technological tool called blog. Through this instructional approach, it is hoped that prospective teachers will become confident in integrating the technology tool which they have learnt, to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom. So, the investigator has selected the topic "**Impact of blogs on prospective teachers for effective technology integration to enhance their teaching**".

Major objective

1. To find out the impact of prospective teachers on the online technological tool called 'blogs'.

Major objective

1. To find out the level of awareness of prospective teachers on the online technological tool blogs.
2. To tutor them on blogs.
3. To find out the impact of blogs on prospective teachers after imparting practical knowledge on blogs.

Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference in the awareness of prospective teachers in the pre test and post test scores with the online technological tool blogs with respect to the variable subject specialization.
2. There is no significant difference in the awareness of prospective teachers in the pre test and post test scores with the online technological tool blogs with respect to the variable interest in using Computer.

Tool Construction

1. Self made tool to assess the awareness of prospective teachers on blogs.

Methodology

Pre test Post test strategy was followed. A pre test was conducted to the prospective teachers to find their awareness on blogs. And then the investigator taught them to understand the tools and techniques of using blogs for classroom teaching. A post test was conducted after the programme.

Population

Prospective teachers in Thoothukkudi district from colleges of Education affiliated to TamilNadu Teachers Education University, Chennai forms the population of the study.

Sample

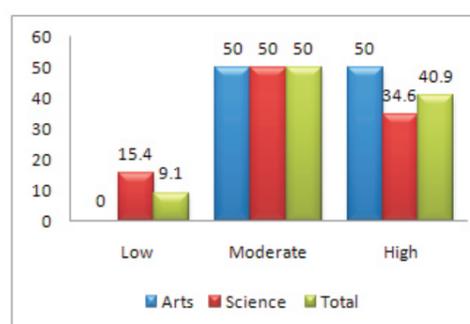
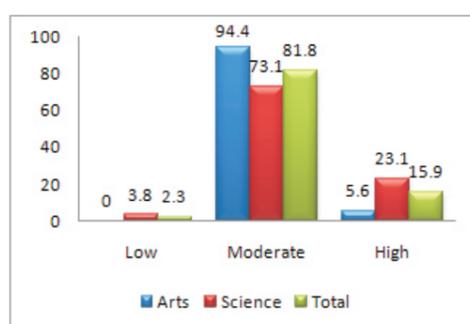
44 prospective teachers from Annammal College of Education in Thoothukkudi affiliated to TamilNadu Teachers Education University, Chennai forms the sample of the study.

Statistical techniques

1. Percentage Analysis
2. 't' test

Percentage Analysis

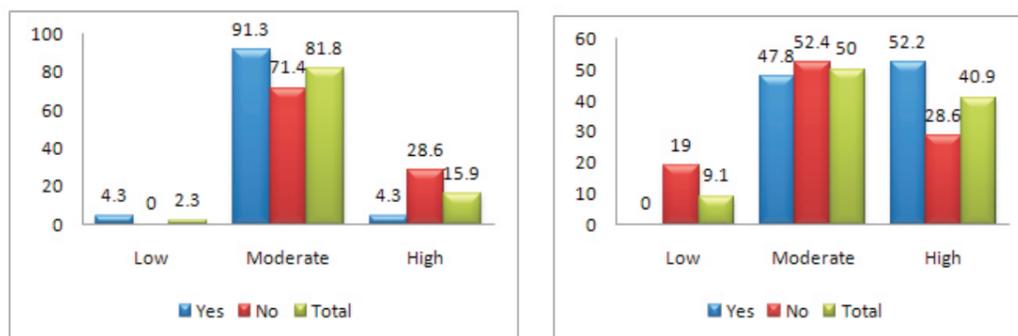
| Test | Subject specialization | low | | Moderate | | High | |
|-----------|------------------------|-----|------|----------|------|------|------|
| | | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Pre Test | Arts | 0 | 0 | 17 | 94.4 | 1 | 5.6 |
| | Science | 1 | 3.8 | 19 | 73.1 | 6 | 23.1 |
| | Total | 1 | 2.3 | 36 | 81.8 | 7 | 15.9 |
| Post Test | Arts | 0 | 0 | 9 | 50 | 9 | 50 |
| | Science | 4 | 15.4 | 13 | 50 | 9 | 34.6 |
| | Total | 4 | 9.1 | 22 | 50 | 18 | 40.9 |



In pre-test, regarding the variable subject specialization, it is found that 94.4% and 5.6% of arts discipline prospective teachers show moderate and high level, and 3.8%, 73.1% and 23.1% of Science discipline prospective teachers show low, moderate and high level of awareness on blogs.

In post-test, regarding the variable subject specialization, it is found that 50% and 50% of arts discipline prospective teachers show moderate and high level, and 3.8%, 73.1% and 23.1% of Science discipline prospective teachers show low, moderate and high level of awareness on blogs.

| Test | Interest in using Computer | low | | Moderate | | High | |
|-----------|----------------------------|-----|-----|----------|------|------|------|
| | | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Pre Test | Yes | 1 | 4.3 | 21 | 91.3 | 1 | 4.3 |
| | No | 0 | 0 | 15 | 71.4 | 6 | 28.6 |
| | Total | 1 | 2.3 | 36 | 81.8 | 7 | 15.9 |
| Post Test | Yes | 0 | 0 | 11 | 47.8 | 12 | 52.2 |
| | No | 4 | 19 | 11 | 52.4 | 6 | 28.6 |
| | Total | 4 | 9.1 | 22 | 50 | 18 | 40.9 |



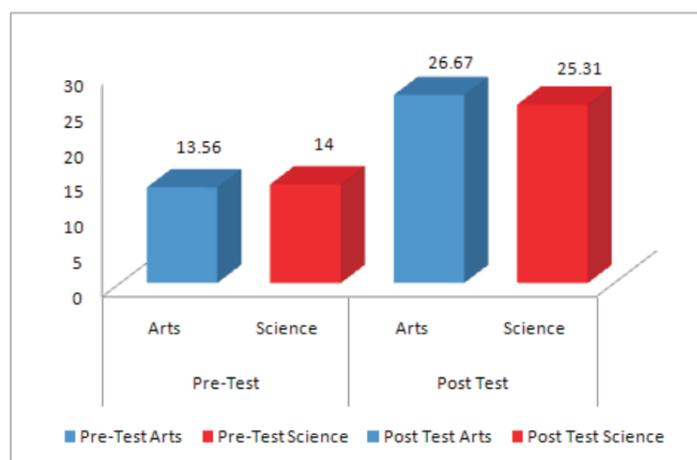
In pre-test, it is found that 4.3%, 91.3% and 4.3% of prospective teachers who are interested in using computer show low, moderate and high level, 71.4% and 28.6% of prospective teachers who are not interested in using computer show low, moderate and high level of awareness on blogs.

In post-test, it is found that 47.8% and 52.2% of prospective teachers who are interested in using computer show moderate and high level, 19%, 52.4% and 28.6% of prospective teachers who are not interested in using computer show low, moderate and high level of awareness on blogs.

Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference in the awareness of prospective teachers in the pretest and post test scores with the online technological tool blogs with respect to the variable subject specialization.

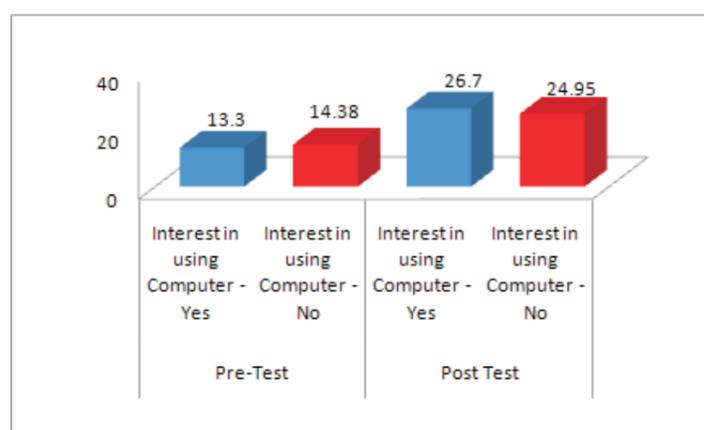
| Test | Subject Specialization | N | Mean | Std. Deviation | calculated 't' value | Table value | Remarks at 5% level |
|-----------|------------------------|----|-------|----------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Pre-Test | Arts | 18 | 13.56 | 1.097 | 0.733 | 1.96 | Not Significant |
| | Science | 26 | 14.00 | 2.400 | | | |
| Post Test | Arts | 18 | 26.67 | 1.534 | 2.377 | 1.96 | Significant |
| | Science | 26 | 25.31 | 2.259 | | | |



It is inferred from the above table that there is significant difference in the awareness of blogs on prospective teachers with respect to the variable subject specialization in post test scores and there is no significant difference in pre test scores.

2. There is no significant difference in the awareness of prospective teachers in the pretest and post test scores with the online technological tool blogs with respect to the variable interest in using Computer.

| Test | Interest in using Computer | N | Mean | Std. Deviation | calculated 't' value | Table value | Remarks at 5% level |
|-----------|----------------------------|----|-------|----------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Pre-Test | Yes | 23 | 13.30 | 1.295 | 1.816 | 1.96 | Not Significant |
| | No | 21 | 14.38 | 2.418 | | | |
| Post Test | Yes | 23 | 26.70 | 1.550 | 3.018 | 1.96 | Significant |
| | No | 21 | 24.95 | 2.247 | | | |



It is inferred from the above table that there is significant difference in the awareness of blogs on prospective teachers with respect to the variable interest in using computer in post test scores and there is no significant difference in pre test scores.

Findings and interpretation From Percentage Analysis

It is observed from the pre test that most of the prospective teachers show only moderate awareness on blogs. But in the post test, they show moderate as well as high awareness on blogs. This shows that the intervention worked well and the prospective teachers are interested in acquiring a new strategy that would enhance their teaching skill.

It is observed from the table that prospective teachers belonged to arts group shows moderate awareness as a whole in pre test when compared to Science teachers. But to the surprise, they show 50/50 awareness in post test. This shows that imparting technical skills in a proper and interesting manner can boost arts prospective teachers also to learn strategies which employ technical skills.

Regarding the variable interest in using computer, in pre test, as a whole, the prospective teachers show moderate awareness and in post test they show moderate as well as high awareness on blogs. This shows that interest in a technological gadget is not at all an issue in imparting strategy skills in teacher education institutions. It is the teacher educator's skill to attract the attention of the prospective teachers in learning a concept and this went well in this research.

From the table, it is well known that those who are no interest in using computer shows the same level of awareness in pre test as well as in post test. So, interest in computers is not an issue for

learning a strategy.

From hypotheses

1. From the table, it is inferred that irrespective of subject, the prospective teachers shows awareness of blogs in post test scores and there is no significant difference in pre test scores. The mean values of pre test and post test differs widely.

So, it is inferred that if the teacher educators, in contrast to the traditional methods, implemented modern learning methods such as web tools, then the students would play an active role in their learning process and determine how to reach their desired learning outcomes on their own.

2. There is no much difference in the mean scores of prospective teachers in the post test scores. From this, it is concluded that subject is not a constraint in learning a concept.

3. It is inferred that the prospective teacher's shows awareness of blogs in post test scores with respect to their interest in using computer, and there is no significant difference in pre test scores. From this it is concluded that by incorporating technology into the classroom, teacher educators are finding it raises the quality of class discussion and involves students much more deeply in their own education.

4. Also, irrespective of their interest in using computers, prospective teachers showed their curiosity to adopt a new learning strategy. This may also be due to the involvement of the teacher educator in implementing a new teaching methodology.

CONCLUSION

Technology Changes Teaching, Not Teachers. Because technology has increased the intensity and complexity of literate environments, the twenty-first century demands that a literate person possess a wide range of abilities and competencies. These literacies—from reading online newspapers to participating in virtual classrooms—are multiple, dynamic, and malleable. Teacher educators can use web journals to distribute assignments, assets, and keep understudies and even folks a la mode on class occasions, due dates, and substance being secured. They can likewise utilize web journals to help students' expert substance what's more, enhance their written work abilities. Understudies can utilize sites to distribute their written work and instruct others on a specific subject If a new technology is introduced in a proper way, the future teachers will learn, acquire, implement and transfer it to ne(x)t generation. The investigator felt that this paper is one of the evidences that technology integration positively affects student achievement and their academic interest.

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