

REIFYING TECHNO-E LEARNING AS CATALYST FOR AFFIRMATIVE CHANGE

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ABSTRACT

Man, the vicegerent of Almighty (The creator of Heavens & Earth & all beings in these) has been endowed with the title of supremacy over the angels by blessing him with the knowledge. The knowledge of perceiving things, for their trough and crust behavior, usability and application etc.

There has been various modes of attaining education Verbal and Written for example, since the times immemorial to the currently prevailing like:

- E Learning
- Print Media
- Practical & Demonstration
- Illustration & Multimedia.

Amongst the above mentioned, e-learning and multimedia is the strong force through which vast knowledge can be conveyed to the learner in a relatively short time thus can be attributed as a positive change agent.

This paper is an attempt to explore and present aforementioned idea and to some extent implement it through the use of interactive& e- learning and thereby enhancing student participation that would eventually lead to:

- Interest Maintaining
- Thought Improvement
- Creativity Enhancement

especially with reference to the Pakistani educational environment.

KEYWORDS

Supremacy; Perception; Usability; Creativity; Educational Environment; Multimedia.

1. INTRODUCTION

Human being basically blessed with five senses through the five organs namely Ear, Eyes, Skin, Tongue, and Nose. These divine endowed senses have led the human being to set his journey from perception [3] to awareness then forming hypothesis and later on heading towards education that formed its rout to knowledge and finally to the learning level. The connectivity vs. understanding is as follow

The ever-inquisitive nature of the reformers, thinkers, philosophers and scientists made learning to evolve in various forms i.e. M-Learning [12], learning by heart (Verbal Learning), Learning through writing on stones, Leaves & Leather etc. to the printing and later on to Vocal (Radio), Vision (TV) and different other styles of learning up to the current form termed as new media.

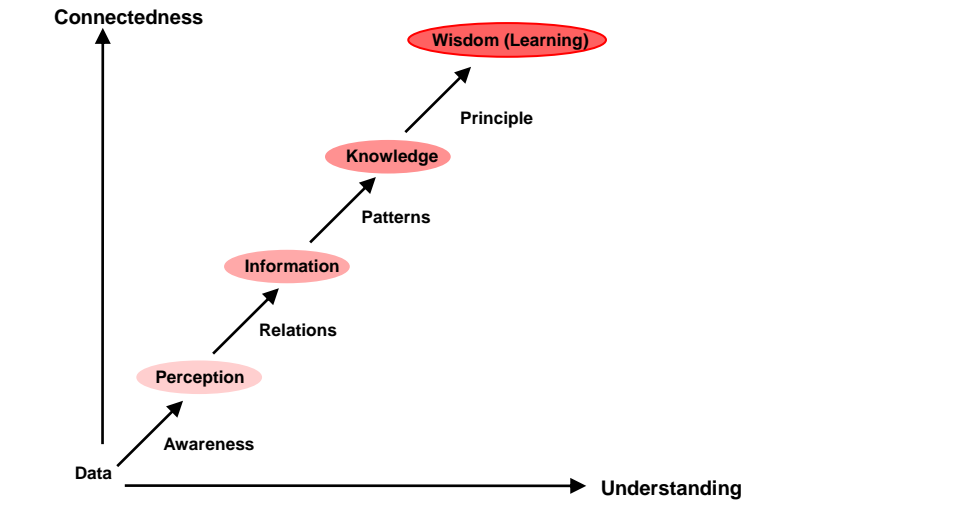


Fig. 1

2. DEFINITION OF MULTIMEDIA:

Different definitions [4], [7], [9] etc. have evolved over the previous several years, in my opinion it could be defined as:

The integration of diversified; Print, Newspaper, Radio, Communication, TV, and Web Media if converged leads towards a High-Tech media (Multimedia).



Fig. 2

Media is a strong force through which very huge amount of knowledge can be conveyed to pupils in a very short time. It motivates student interaction, experimentation, and cooperative learning [1].

e-Learning and Multimedia could play an effective role in enhancing various intellectual capabilities like:

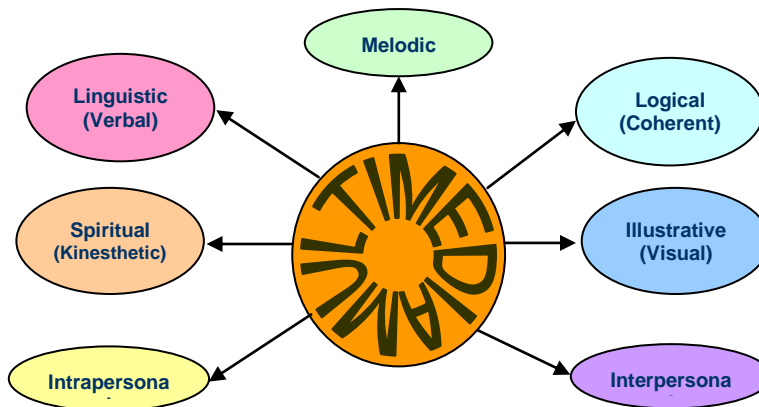


Fig. 3

The changes brought through multimedia in the learning environment are not only affirmative but also more evolutionary than revolutionary.

3. TECHNOLOGY & METHODOLOGY

The research under consideration consists of two parts. First one deals with finding out the basic needs and drawback of utilization of Multimedia at various levels of education and to suggest some remedies for this problem. The second part consist of the developing partial English language learning software that would be a source of self-learning dealing with Pronunciation, Punctuation, Grammar, firstly from Nursery & Primary level and then from Primary to higher classes and so on so forth.

Hardware and Software requirement include the software itself along with a computer with optimal 800 MHz speed, with proper Audio and video card, speakers, CD Rom Drive, High resolution colored Monitor / multimedia projector.

4. RESULT & DISCUSSION

If we have to consider multimedia to be an inevitable tool in every aspect of life in general and in the dissemination and enhancing of knowledge and awareness in particular, then multimedia consideration could be for several reasons for its capabilities as shown in figure below

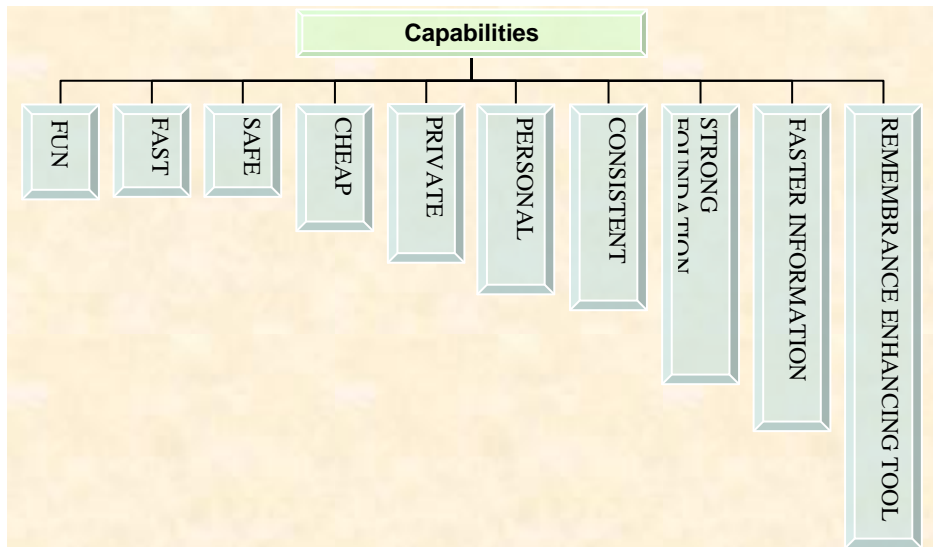


Fig. 4

Furthermore as a tool that help to think deep leading to pursuing curiosity and intelligence, enhancing in the students to visualize their ideas on any topic [8], [10]. Multimedia is seen as one way of solving the growing problems between the skills and availability of the work force and the increasing demand of technology in industrialized countries. [11]

New media can bring a drastic change in the study habits of students when they use the computer through keyboard. It can help the trainees to

- Acquire information and skills.
- Practice these skills.
- Reinforce their skills in the course of their activities

Pakistan is a developing country with 23.10 % of people (Adults) living below poverty line which has been drawn for the year 2004, as Rs. 848.80 per adult equivalent per month [6] which is equivalent to 14.14 \$, ridiculous isn't it? (\$1.25 @Day as of 2011) and this makes more than 50% of Pakistani population under the poverty line [6 a]

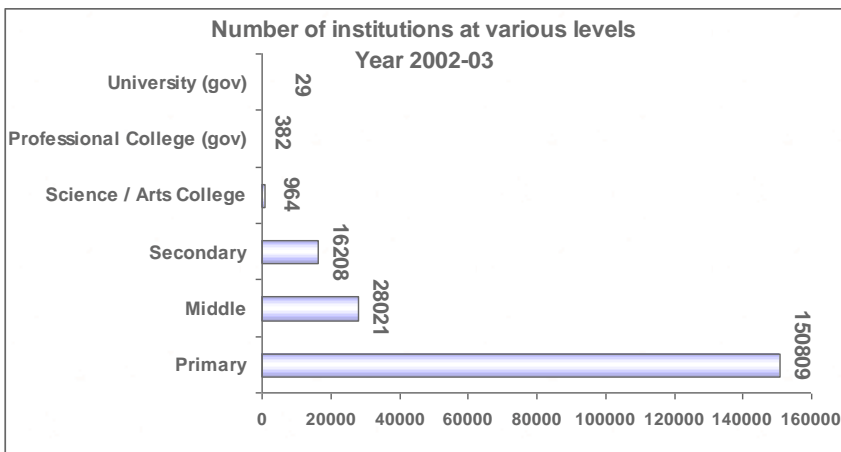


Fig. 5

Now this poverty level has been associated with economic growth, which implies greater availability of public resources towards the improvement of both quantity and quality of education and health services at the macro level.

As is evident from fig-5 that number of professionals (P/colleges and University) in public sector in Pakistan is 382 and 29 respectively [5] with the enrolment in same category being 1.63 and 1.27 lakhs, that raised to 420 and 61 in number with the enrolment in same category being 2.96 and 2.07 lakhs [5 a] total inclusive of both male & females shown in fig-6, where as the number of the universities/degree awarding institutions in the private sector is 30, with their enrollment total male & female was 16410 in the year 2003-04 [6] and that got up to the level of 56 enrolling 87,310 in the year 2006-2007 [6 a]

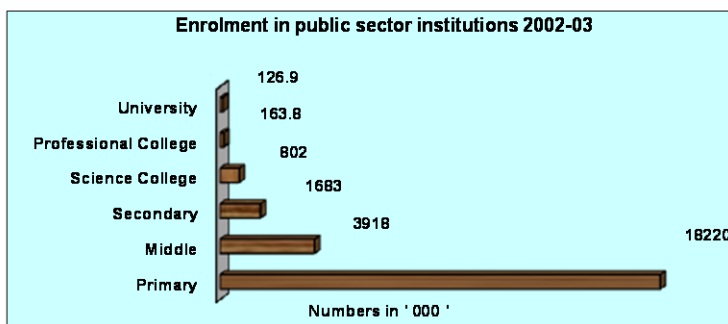


Fig. 6

Now this above-mentioned total enrollment was in all the disciplines namely Agriculture, Engineering, Medical, Law and Education. This all other category comprises of Tibb, Homeopathy, Fine arts and Computer, as shown in fig-7 below.

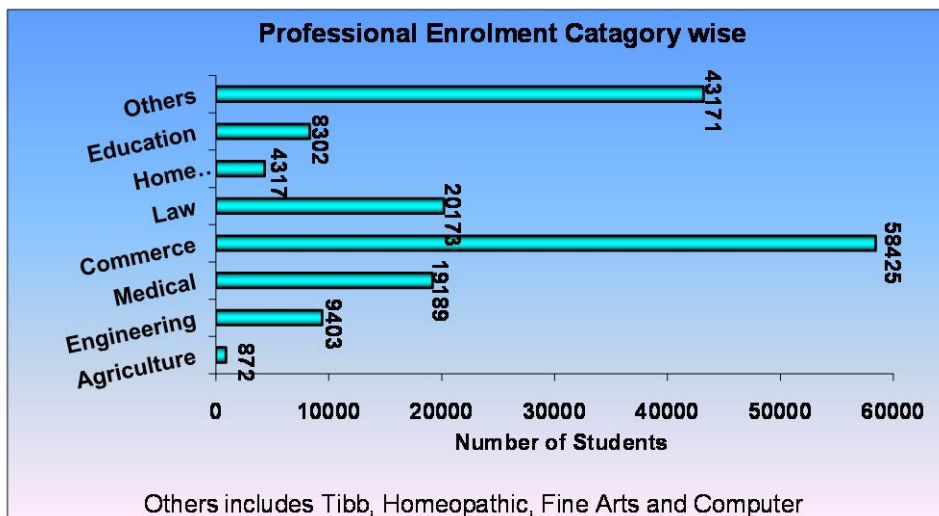


Fig. 7

If we just assume the computer science category where multimedia could be applied, to be 25% of the other disciplines that turns out to be around 11,000, which is in the recession in the current year with only less than 500 teachers in all the branches on the computer science serving all over the country. The situation has not improved till 2006-7 that was less than 12,600 & the teachers 710 teachers which is relatively a healthy sign and improving further.

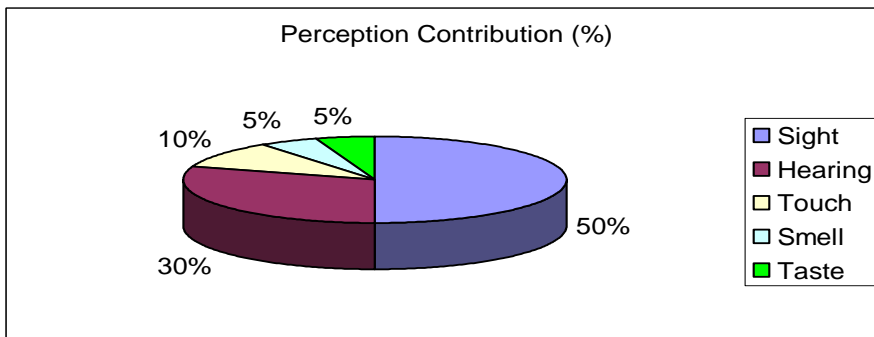
The question arises that if this number is considered to be only the experts in multimedia education; does this number serve the purpose of teaching, if multimedia style of education is to be proposed at the primary level?

The discipline e-learning & multimedia (IT and Computer Science) is open ended; anybody could enter into it even if he/she has taken only one course or even without a course by having a book of computer applications and its utilities that has led to the artificial recession in the field. The need is that only the professionals with proper qualification and expertise to be put in place to work for the progress and enhancement in the said field.

Currently only a few institutions in the public and private sector are trying to attract the attention of richer class to send their offspring to such heavily tuitioned institution to get into this unrealized stream which eventually in the years to come would be likely to convert into an unfathomable ocean.

5. SUGGESTION & CONCLUSION

The advancement of technology has no bounds both in terms of its natural up and down trends in the days and the years to come. E-Learning and Multimedia has led towards interdisciplinary collaborative Hybridism. People retain only 20% of what they see and 30% of what they hear but they remember 50% of what they see, hear and as much as 80% what they see and hear and do simultaneously. That's why multimedia provides such a powerful tool for teaching, training and learning. [4]



The words of the Lord of the worlds: “Who teacheth by the pen, Teacheth man that which he knew not” [13]

It is above board that what so ever the sources of attaining and getting knowledge be there but still the knowledge/education sought can't be authentic without the use of pen i.e. the physical involvement of writing with other perception sensors is as important as heart in the body.

The idea of introduction of multimedia in the Pakistani educational environment sounds to be good one in the cities like Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad, Peshawar, Quetta to name a few, for the elite or rich class (Both male & Female) [2] studying in the private sector institutions. We need first of all to homogenize and equalize the double or rather many fold standards towards education but for this purpose we have to go for:

- The eradication of Poverty
- Reforming the Political and Social System
- Elevating the Literacy level
- Alleviating the Vadera System
- Excluding red tapeism.

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