GGGE1155

COMPUTER IN EDUCATION

Assignment 1

<u>TITLE: Computer as a Tool, Tutor and Tutee</u>

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

According to Taylor (1980), she classified the educational applications of computers into three broad categories: 1) as a teacher, 2) as a learner and 3) as an assistant. Computers are the most recent and the most breathtaking invention which scientists have made in the twentieth century. However, without realizing it, computers are capable in playing different roles as a tutor, tool and tutee. Regardless the fact that they were created only 40 years ago, they have become an integral part of our lives. Some of the advantages of computers are that they are never tired, rarely commits mistakes and can work throughout the day. With the well-defined function, they operate at incomparable speeds, thus saving human time and effort to a large extent. Moreover, considering the use of computer technology is almost every sphere of life, this is also why the education system has made computer education as a part of the school curriculum.

2.1 COMPUTER AS A TOOL

Computer as a tool is the most common use in our learning environment. In this mode, the computer aids the users in performing various tasks. To illustrate, students might use it as a calculator in Math, various Science assignments, as map-making tool in Geography or even as a text editor. First, word processor are the most widely used by allow the students to produce and format texts easily, and check for spelling errors. A good example of this is Microsoft Word. Second, graphic tools handle the pictorial information such as drawing, graph, chart and animated figure. Popular graphic includes Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, and Microsoft Paint. Third, presentation software such as Microsoft PowerPoint is designed for producing and displaying multimedia contents. Another one is the spreadsheet that has been marked off into rows and column to help in the calculation. The popular example is Microsoft Excel.

2.2 COMPUTER AS A TUTOR

This mode allows the computer to teach its user about things he/she wants to know about. For this role, the computer acts as an instructor and the user serves as the student. A good example of this can be seen through applications computer-assisted instruction (CAI) or

computer-assisted learning (CAL) where the students learn by interacting with a program stored in the computer. In other words, it allows the students to learn at their own pace, motivate learning through a challenging virtual learning environment, assist students through information needed during the learning process, evaluate student responses through immediate feedback during the learning process, and also given the total score to evaluate the student's total performance. However, there has been a fear that someday in the future teachers will be replaced with CAI because as an assessment it is much better if we will used the computer to assist as in our learning for it is consistent and objective.

2.3   COMPUTER AS A TUTEE

In this case, the computer is 'taught' something by being programmed by the learner. When the computer function as a learner, the traditional roles are reversed. The computer becomes the learner, the student becomes the teacher. The goal of this mode is to give it set of instructions to do some functions or tasks, for example making a program to sort a set of numbers where you teach the computer how to compare the value of the numbers and then sort them. To do this, the student or teacher doing the tutoring must learn to program , to talk to the computer in a language it understands. They have taught it to drill students in arithmetic operations, to play monopoly, to calculate loan interest, to "speak" another computer language, to draw maps and to generate animated pictures.

3.0   CONCLUSION

Computer is undoubtedly a great tool for teachers in this new age of learning in which, they can make the students to construct their own knowledge by letting them to explore or navigate with the computers as a tool. Apart from developing their critical thinking and creativity skills, it will also make them an autonomous learners. In fact, one can already facilitate his own learning through the computer but, it is important that it is guided by the teacher, not just for entertainment. Even though computer software can be programmed to teach every information in a certain topic, still it can't replace an experienced teacher. Teachers don't only teach us lessons from subjects like Algebra or English but they also teach us the lessons of life learned through experience. Therefore, it can be concluded that computer is definitely a great technology but as always, teachers are the major role of imparting the knowledge to the students.

4.0 REFERENCES

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