UIIT assessment item 3

**Conclusion for using ICT in education in Hong Kong**

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Nowadays, the introduction of modern technologies makes an innovative way on assisting teaching. It not only provides a broader range of excitement to students, but also enhances students’ learning achievement. What are the benefits and disadvantages of infusing ICT in education? In the following, the article is going to discuss the questions with introducing some new teaching tools.

**Higher learning motivation and better management of diversity**

In the past, we just look at the paper book and listen to the teachers. It is a unidirectional teaching. Even to normal students, they may not pay attention to the class. It is even more difficult to the students with special educational needs. They are always distracted and cannot follow the learning procedure because of innate attention deficient. The use of multimedia would be a good way to help enhancing the learning motivation and teaching.

ICT tools can combine different media together such as text, pictures, sound, video and animation to provide different learning stimulation, thereby increasing the effectiveness of learning incentive. For example in the Chinese lesson, we can separate different parts of the fonts into pictures by simple software. We can magnify and coloring part of font which can help students with reading disabilities to remember the words. In the general studies lesson, animation can help them to explain some difficult concepts. Teacher can represent the idea graphically and visually. With **sounding Board**, an iPad /iPod Touch app, students with writing disabilities and communication disorders can use the symbols to create their own messages in the same way that traditional symbol board’s work. (Hayes, 2013) The device just acts as a story board communicator. For students with writing disabilities, voice adaptive software can help students answer questions without writing.

Besides, with ICT, audio-video recording can greatly help in the classroom. Students may be able to follow their individual learning progresses. By playing the video at home, it can help to the students to catch up the missing points step by step. They can adjust the speed and progress of the video to make sure they understand the concepts. And other merit is students can revise the knowledge learned in the class too. Also, other than the students, the teacher can evaluate his own teaching from the video. Share and discuss the successful teaching moment with his colleague would help the teacher improve the teaching skills. (Bell, 2010)

From the above example, we can see technology had changed the pedagogy; it can made students to be the centre of learning. Students are learning more by themselves.

**More interactive teaching and learning**

Secondly, with use of ICT, there would be a more interactive teaching and learning. E-learning is one of the new trends in schools worldwide including Hong Kong. (TVB News Public Affairs production, 2012) 61 government schools have started e-leaning. In these schools, the blackboard is outdated. For example, a new online learning platform is implemented in Fung Kai Innovative School since 2006. Everything is efficient with this. They are using the electronic interacting whiteboard now. It is a touch screen device like a big I-pad. They can touch the screen, see and manipulate visuals illustrating the vocabulary words, move words around to make sentences — it gives them something to which they can attach language. (Hayes, 2013) Also, the teachers do not need to waste time on erasing the written words, just click a button is okay.

**Limitation**

There are many resources telling us the technology could help students. However, there are a huge digital divide between schools and students in the city. From the news report, we know that some school can have face recognition technology and solar powered device. Comparing to some poorer schools, such as Y.C.H. Chiu Tsang Hok Wan Primary School, they only have 1 computer room with internet. It highly limited the chance to use the computer and thereby reduce the learning opportunity of students. The government has invested nearly 9 billion over the past 15 years on the promotion of IT in education. (TVB News Public Affairs production, 2012) The school gets around 300,000 dollars yearly. However, the money support from the government could only support the maintenance of the IT system and salaries of technical staff. There is no extra money to pay for the infrastructure for e-learning. There are significant digital divide.

**Conclusion**

Technology is changing the way of education. The use of multimedia would help enhancing the learning motivation and teaching. It makes all the things become more convenient. Teaching and learning is instant and optimized. But with limitations such money support, E-learning are not generalized. As a teacher-to-be, I hope that technology propose more new idea to assist teaching. And we can see a happy ICT environment in the future.

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