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UTILITY OF E – ASSESSMENTIN PRESENT SCENARIO

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Abstract

In a learning process Student's performance is judged by assessment. Rapid growth ofInformationandCommunicationTechnologyhavepresented various possibilitiesfor the assessment of learner'slearningandproviding him instantfeedback. Now a days specially in the pandemic time digitaltechnologies are integrated both in teaching and learning process and are enhancing the teaching and learning engagement level of teacher and student. Digital technologies uses new and enriched e-assessment tools for evaluating learner's performance. Author discusses basics of assessmentpractices, modes of e-assessment, types of e-assessment and digital technological tools for the e-assessmentpractices.She also discusses the efficiency of e-learning tool in digital platform.

Key Words- E-Assessment-Modes, types, tools

Learners progress can be measured by means of assessment. Assessment helps us to identify,gather,organizeandinterpret information aboutlearners'learningprogress. It uses avarietyofstrategiesandtoolstoexamine evaluate and measuretheperformance of student.

E-Assessment

Use of digital technologies in assessment process is known as E-assessment. E-assessment providesimmediatefeedbackfordiagnostic,formative and summativeassessment. E-assessment is a very powerful tool which can be used at primary, secondary or in higher education. It is very useful tool for learners which helps in learning andretentionofmaterialand help learnersto enhance theirengagementwiththesubject content. E-assessment offers many advantages over traditional pen and paper exams.

Following forms of E-assessment are commonly used

- Onlineexams /tests, quizzes

- E-assignmentsubmission
- E-rubricsbasedassessment
- Self-andpeer-assessment
- Studentresponsesystems

Main features of E-assessment are as follows

- **Multiple responses**: This feature helps student to assessand re-assess their knowledge .Here learner can undertake online test many times for his re-assessment.
- **Instant Feedback: -**This feature enables learner to receive an immediate and focused feedback on their work.Thispersonalizedfeedbackhis very helpful for students in enhancingtheirknowledgeandperformanceregarding the subject content.
- **Rigid / flexible order:** The question can be transacted in a predetermined or randomorder.
- **Varietyofassessment:**E-assessment tool can beusedforall i.e., diagnostic,formativeandsummative assessment.
- **Guide:** These tools helps learners to reach out to further reading or resources if they faced difficultyin answering the question during the online examination or e-assessment. The learnerscan receive the sophisticate reporting and it allows the learners to refine the exerciseoridentifyareas in whichmoreinstruction is needed.
- **Enhancement:**It helps learner to enhance their learning engagement and digital literacy.
- **AnywhereandAnytime:**Thelearnerscanattemptoraccesstheonlinetestindifferentgeographical location and at differenttime
- **Diminishtheworkload:**E-Assessmentsystemscanreduce theworkloadofteachers/educatorsandadministrativestaff to a great extent bysystematizing and managing administrative proceduressuchascollectinganswerscriptsformarkingandqualityassurancereviews,and disseminatingpercentage/grades and feedback.
- **AutomatedMarkingSystem:**Assessmentrubricscanbecreatedtofacilitateautomatedmarkingsystem andit provides consistency in evaluation work. It helps to generatereusablefeedback commentrepositories.

MODESOFE-ASSESSMENTACTIVITY

Technology plays a vital role in effective assessment of learning and offers teachers a variety of new tools that can be used in the classroom fortransactingtheideaor for evaluationpurpose.Technology enables educatorsassesstheirlearners' learning as well as their performance in the classroom. ICT in

assessment involvesthe use of digital devices and digital tools to assist in the creation, delivery, storage orreporting of learners assessment tasks, responses, grades or feedback. Someofthemodes oftechnologyintegratedassessmentactivitiesorstrategies are

Computer-Based Assessment (CBA): It implies to assessments delivered and markedby computer. The role ofcomputer is to publish the assessment result or evaluate theresult.

Computer-Assisted Assessment (CAA): It refer to practice that relies partially oncomputers .It may involve use of online discussion forums for peer-assessment as well as theself-assessment, audience response systems in group work, completion and submission ofwork digitally / electronically, or storage of work in an e-portfolio. It includes assessmentsdelivered on computer either online or offline, and also the assessments that are marked with the aid ofcomputers such as those using optical mark reading. It can be formative, summative or diagnosticassessment and is adaptive to meet a wide range of learning outcomes.

ComputerAdaptiveTesting(CAT): Oneofthemodernadvancementsinassessment is the design and use of computer-adaptive tests, which add a great deal ofeffectivenesstothetesting process.Basedonthelearners'responses,thesoftware willautomatically adjust the level of difficulty of the questions it poses Further,the technology enables to include items that test content from previous andsubsequent grades, which allows measurement of a very wide distribution of knowledge andskills that might exist in any given class or testinggroup.

TYPESOFE-ASSESSMENT

Depending on the purpose of assessment different types of E-Assessment are as follows

Diagnosticassessment: Diagnostic assessment isassessmentofastudent'sknowledgeandskillsatthe beginning of a course transaction. It focuses on the presentation skills, competencies or abilitiesoflearnersatstart pointoftime.Itisoftensaidthatdiagnosticassessmentlooksbackwards and formative assessment looks forward. E-diagnostic assessment can be usedprior to a teaching activity .It helps learners improve their self-monitoringskill to acquire more deepand effective learning.

Formative assessment: It is also known as assessment for learning and provides progressive feedback to learners about theircurrent understanding and skills of a course / subject.The main purpose of formative assessment is to monitor and provide ongoing feedback for learners to develop and improvetheir learning. Electronic formative assessment can be done with some digital tools such asmulti-disciplinarydiscussionboards, reflectiveblogging,etc. wherelearners canreceivecommentsfrom peersandeducators.

Summative Assessment: The assessment of a learner's achievement at end generallyleading to a formal qualification or certification of a skill is known as summative achievement. Summative assessmentis also known as assessment of learning. It is the evaluation of learner learning against a setcriteriaor standards.

Performance Assessment: Performance assessment requires learners to exhibit or

demonstratethattheyhavemasteredspecificskillsandcompetenciesbyperformingorcreatingor producingsomething.Usually thiskindof assessmentisusedfortheculturalcompetitionslike debate,drama, dance,song, and elocution and finearts events.

DIGITALASSESSMENT

Thereare a lot of digitalassessmentalternativesthat existforassessinglearners'performance .The Web 2.0 tools available today can serve as alternativeassessment tools for learner's learning. They enhance learner's learning engagement as they reflect share anddemonstrate what they have learned or they are learning. Some important digitalassessment alternativesare as below

OnlineAssessment:

The Process used to measure certain aspects of information for aset purpose where the assessment is delivered via a computer in online mode. Mostoftentheassessmentissometypeofeducationaltest.Therearemanyonlineserviceproviders some free andsome paid tools for designing anddeveloping online tests and quizzeslikeKahoot,plickers etc.

DigitalConceptMap:

It is teaching and learning approach used to visualize relations between concepts/contents and ideas using graphical representation . Itis a sort ofgraphic organizer that consists of various circles or boxes (callednodes) each ofwhich contain a concept and are all interlinked through linking phrases. The role of theselinking phrases is to 'identify the relationship between adjacent concepts'. It is a digital tool that help educators to assess the student learning process with the use of mind map and concept map . Digital concept maps can be created by usingeither offline tools like VUE, Pencil, freemind,XMind,iMindMap,MindManagerorcanbecreatedusingonlinetoolslikemindmup.bubbl.us,coggle,or weismap.

Conceptmapscanbeused as formative assessment tool tomakestudentthinking visible. Here Students construct and submit their understanding of key concepts andtheir linkages through a concept map. So it becomes clear whether the students have understood theconceptual framework around a topic of study. Concept maps also provide immediate visualdata to faculty on student misconceptions and their level of understanding. Some important concept mapping tools are as follows.

Bubbl.us: It is very good tool for producing visually attractive concept maps. It is webapplication. Created maps can be savedasanimageformat.Ithas good sharingandcollaborative features.

Popplet: It is also a very good toolthat students can use to create, edit and shareconcept maps. It has many features like recording notes in different formats withtext, images and drawings; export final work as PDF or JPEG, supports severallanguages and manymore.

Creately: It offers plenty of pre-designed mind map templates, supports group work,andintegrated with thirdpartytoolsincludingChrome Storeand Google Apps.

Coggle: It is also a good online tool for creating, editing and sharing mind maps. It worksonlinein our browser.

OnlineForum:

Online Forum is an asynchronous communication tool. There are many standaloneforumlike bbPress, phpBB, Zetaboards or vanilla forums. IForum or discussion board is also an integrated part of Learning managementsystem.Learners could beasked to brainstorm on a topic by posting their ideas in a discussion forum. There can bequestion answer forumwhere every learner needstoposttheir answer inorder tosee theother learners' response to the question. Teacher can create many topic specific discussionforums and this could be used to evaluate learners' level of understanding and misconceptionsif any. Some of thepopular online tools for creating and organizing the onlineforum are

Zetaboards: This toolprovidesfree forum hosting that serves as an excellent sitefor growing an online community. This website has many features like custom profile,joinablegroup,automotivespamprevention, pinned topic andmore.

phpBB: It is a free and open source forum thatprovides bulletin board software. It can be used tostayincontactwithagroupofpeople.Itswide databaseofuser-createdmodificationsandstyles. It containshundredsofstyleandimage packages to customizeour board.

VanillaForum: Itgives hostedandopensourcecommunityforumsoftwarethat is used as discussion forums. It allows us to create a customized / personalizedcommunity that rewards positive participation, automatically curates content and letsmembersdrive moderation.

SurveyTools:

There are many important online surveytools like Google Forms, Typeform, Zoho Survey, Survey Planet, Survey Anyplace, SurveyMonkey, Poll Daddy or Lime Survey that automates and facilitates survey work. These tools can be used as an assessment tooland can be used to collect feedback from learners as well as subject of our sample. Some important survey tools are as below.

Typeform: It is online survey software which has a very user friendly interface .It isalsoavailable in a web based platformforcollectingand sharinginformation, in a conventionalhuman way.

Survey Monkey: One of the well-known and popular online survey software is Survey Monkey. It is used to create and run professional online surveys. It is perfect for one off surveys; however this makes it less suitable in terms ofmeasuring overall satisfaction or resurveying customers again after a certain period of time.

Google Forms: It is a free online survey and questionnaire web tool provided by googlethat allows users to quickly and easily put together surveys via a drag and drop interface.Teachers can organize online examination as well the quiz through this google forms.Google Forms can be private or public, and can be syncronisedwith Google Sheets to automaticallycollectresponses.

Wikis:

Awikiisawebsitethatallowsuserstocollaborativelywrite,editandcreatecontentmaterials. The most famous example of a wiki is Wikipedia which is a collaborativelycreated online encyclopedia. Wikis have provide environments for collaborative projects informaleducationandtraining.Thelearners'contributioninwikicanbeassessed by the teachers. Wiki serves as a tool for self and peer assessment. It can be used as an effectiveteachingandlearningtools for enhancing theteachingandlearningprocess. Some important wiki tools are

Wikispaces.com: Wikispacesisasocialwritingplatform and it also actsasaclassroom management tool by keeping teacher and learners organized on task. Itis specially designedfor the classroom purpose. This site provides many easyto use templates .It is free for use and also contains variety of assessment tools. Wikispaces can be used by teachers to createassignments andshare resources.

Wikidot.com: This website is free to users at the basic level options. Some of itsfeatures include easy to use website templates with unlimited pages, free web hostingand domain name, control over ads, and the chance to earn some money with ads,whichcan beused for thenext class trip.

Pbworks.com: It has over 300,000 education based workspaces and is wiki-like website which provides educators a range of options that encourage student-centered learning. Studentscanbuild web sitesorweb pagesthat can beshared with other studentsand staff.

Blogs:

Blogscontain information related to a specific subject or topic and areupdatedonaregularbasisbytheirauthor.Blogs serves as daily diariesabout people's personal lives, political views, or even social commentaries .Blogs promotes the writing skill and creative skill among the learners. The teachers can assess the studentlearning process by the blog post of the learners.

Blooger.com: It is themost popular blogging platform ownedbyGoogle. It is a free blogging sites with a lot of features.

WordPress.com: Itisalsooneofthereliableandwidelyusedfreebloggingplatforms.It iswidely used and powerfulcontent system forbloggers.

LiveJournal.Com: It is available both in free and paid version. It has many important features likevideouploading,videouploading,privatemessagesendingandpublicmessageposting which areavailablein

thefreeversion ofthis site.

ElectronicPortfolio

Portfolios are considered as a learning and assessment tool which is "apurposefulcompilationandreflectionofone'swork,effortsandprogress". Portfolios are viewedas reflective tools to document students' academic progress .An e-portfolio is a collection of electronic evidence assembled and managed by a user, usually ontheWeb.Suchelectronicevidencemayincludeinputtedtext,electronicfiles,images,multimedia, blog entries, and hyperlinks. E-portfolios are both demonstrations of the user'sabilities and platforms for self-expression. In online mode e-portfolio can be maintaineddynamicallyovertime.

TYPESOFE-PORTFOLIO

DevelopmentalPortfolios: It demonstrates theadvancementanddevelopmentofstudent skills over a period of time. Developmental portfolios are considered works-in-progress and include both self-assessment and reflection/feedback elements. Theprimarypurposeisto providecommunication between studentsandfaculty.

Assessment Portfolios: It is used for demonstrating student competence and skill for well-definedareas. These may be end-of-course or program assessments basically used for evaluatingstudentperformance.Theprimarypurposeistoevaluatestudentcompetencyas definedbyprogram standards and outcomes.

Showcase Portfolios: Used for demonstrating exemplary work and student skills. Shocase portfolio are used to highlight the quality of student work at the end of program Students typically use this portfolio to show them to their potential employers to achieve employment attheend ofadegreeprogram.

There are many online and offline portfolio tools. A simple portfolio can be createdusing presentation software like power point. Some of the important portfolio systems are as below

- AsymetrixToolbook(http://www.asymetrix.com/products/
- SuperLink(http://www.alchemediainc.com/
- MacromediaDirector(http://www.macromedia.com/software/director/
- AdobePageMill(http://www.adobe.com/products/pagemill/main.htmlFileMaker/
- DreamWeaverhttp://www.macromedia.com/software/dreamweaver/
- NetscapeComposer(http://home.netscape.com/communicator/composer/v4.0/Adobe
- Acrobatportabledocumentformat(PDF)files(http://www.adobe.com/products/

DigitalRubrics

A rubric is a scoring guide used to evaluate quality of student's constructed responses.In simple word it is a set of criteria for grading students assignment.Rubrics contain evaluation criteria, quality definition for those evaluation criteria at specificlevel of achievement and a scoring pattern or strategy. Rubrics are usually in tabular format and can be used by teachers while evaluation and by students when planning their work.Rubrics can be used for a variety of assignments: research papers, group projects, portfoliosandpresentations.Some ofthee-rubricswebtool anditsfeatures are

R-Campus: R-Campus is a comprehensive Education Management System and acollaborative learning environment which has a digital rubric feature known asiRubric

EasyTagger isanotherdigitalrubriccreationtoolavailableonlineandcanbeaccessedfrom https://www.essaytagger.com/commoncore

RubiStar–It allowsto customize one of many template rubrics. Rubrics can used as it is, or modifythetemplatestobetterserveyourparticularstudents'needs.Youcanchoosefromsixskillcategories:Multimedia,Products,Experiments,OralProjects,ResearchandWriting, andWork.

MOBILEAPPSFORASSESSMENT

Now a daysthegrowingnumberofmobile devices (e.g. smartphones and tablets) and modern Internettechnologies like JavaScript, HTML5 provide new possibilities for mobilebased learning and assessment. There are a variety of mobile assessment tools that can beused to engage students and provide enhanced feedback before, during, and after a dailylessonorsemester-longunit.Some popular mobileappsforassessment are

Socrative: It is mobile app which engages thewhole classroom with educationalexercises andgames while capturingstudentresults inreal-time. The data provided can used by teachers to judge student's understanding and review the reports topreparefor futureclasses.

Plickersisa powerfully simple toolthat letsteachers collectreal-time formativeassessmentdata without theneed for student devices.

NearPod: Using this platform teachers can manage content on students'devices. It combines presentation, collaboration, and real-time assessment tools intooneintegrated solution.

ADVANTAGESOFE-ASSESSMENT

Ane-assessmentsystem has a lot of advantages:

Paperless: Assessment canbe done electronically withoutpapers which results in saving papers and ultimately saving trees.

TimeSaving: Completelyautomatedsystemofe-examinationande-assessmentsystem definitely saves time.

SavesMoney: Studentsdon'thavetotraveltoa specific location to take exam and expenses of conduction of exam are also reduced.Even for students from remote areascan take e exam online and result of theexaminations arealso shared online.

Assessing: The students can assess the metacognition skill through the e-assessment.Throughthe e-assessment,the educatorscanassessthe creativity skill,reflectiveskillsand communication skills of thelearners.

Multiple responses: It provides an opportunity to the students to attempt an answermorethan onetime.

Immediate Feedback: Important aspect is immediate feedback Thelearnersget theteachersfeedbackand peergroupfeedback.

DISADVANTAGEOFE-ASSESSMENT

Reliability: The most important or questionable aspect is reliability of digital tools and assessing instruments .

Plagiarism:Plagiarismisthemainissue in theonlinebasedassignmentsubmission. Students can cut and copy matter from anywhere to complete theirassignment.Therefore,authenticinformation is a big question mark?

TechnicalSkills: Many teachersandstudents are nota technically equipped for carrying out e-assessmentpractices.

Conclusion

Digital technologies have revolutionized teaching and learning process especially in this period of pandemic. Many tools have evolved in the area of e-assessment also. These tools have definitely been very useful for teachers and learners and are helping them to enhance their teaching and learning engagement with time.

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