

# **TECHNOLOGY LEARNING IN CONTEMPORARY WORLD**

**Dr. R. Udhaya Mohan Babu**  
Assistant Professor  
Sri Vinayaga College of Education  
Sivagangai

**First Edition: 2020**

**Price: Rs.750.00**

---

**Published and Printed By**

**Krishna Publication House**

No.303, YashKunj Apartment, Devbaug,

Anantwadi, Bhavnagar, Gujarat-364002

**Printers:** Krishna Printers Press, Gujarat

**ISBN: 978-81-949205-7-1**



Copyright © Krishna Publication House

**Disclaimer**

All rights reserved. Except for the quotation of short passages for research purposes such as criticism, review and annotation no part of this book publication should be reproduced, stored, in a retrieval system or transmitted stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form on by means, electronics, mechanical photocopying, and recording or otherwise without the prior written permission. Authors are solely responsible for any sort of academic misconduct found in their chapters, if any.

## **PREFACE**

This Edited book is intended to emphasize the technology in contemporary world. This book is edited according to base on the skill based learning. This book contains many relevant issues in learning situation in digital era and new strategies for learning and problem solving. Therefore, differs in a very qualitative way from many other books available on the same content. All suggestions and reports of findings from teacher educators and the student teachers will be acknowledged in this book.

I am also grateful for the help and encouragement of Krishna Publication House, Gujarat.

**Dr. R. Udhaya Mohan Babu**

## Chapter – 6

# DIGITAL TOOLS TO ENRICH OUR VIRTUAL CLASSROOM FOR INNOVATIVE TEACHERS & STUDENTS

**Dr Bilal Ahmad Bhat**

Lecturer Department of Education

University of Kashmir, South Campus, Anantnag.

E-mail : bilalbhat.amu@gmail.com

### Abstract

*The year of 2020 has been a transformative year to play roles of teachers. Everything has changed, including the way kids and university students go to school. During the pandemic, most of the world instated social distancing rules, 20-second hand-washing practices and preventive mask-wearing in public. To say this affected the way educators and students interact is an understatement. In March 2020, millions of children transitioned from face to face classrooms to some kind of virtual education set up at home. During the first months of the pandemic, teachers had to scramble and find the best ways to set up a virtual classroom that would keep their students engaged. In these months, educators at every level tested tools and programs until they found their favorites. The goal of the present paper is to make a review about some tools of virtual teaching with the aim of identifying and analyze the tools which potentiate the learning process. Digital learning is increasingly influencing both classroom/campus-based teaching but more important is leading to new models or designs for teaching and learning. Digital learning is an instructional practice that ultimately helps students. It makes use of a broad range of technology-enhanced educational strategies. It includes blended learning, flipped learning, personalized learning, and other strategies that rely on digital tools to a small or large degree.*

**Keywords :** Technology, Digital Tools, Virtual Classroom.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Introduction**

In the present world of crises and issues, technology is literally everywhere. It does not let alone the field of teaching and

learning. It does help us to modify our behavior for effective teaching and learning. It does instruct us to communicate in an effective way. Technology makes us able to get maximum by minimum efforts. It appeals us all and the kids adapt to it more than anyone else. Unlike teachers of present generation, today's students are being raised in a digital world with more digital environment in the form of various digital gadgets, devices etc. For students of all ages, it is absolutely natural to use technology in every aspect of their lives. That is reason of why digital tools in classroom are becoming more and more crucial. Traditional methods for teaching have already gone through a transformation to adapt to the needs of 21st-century students and to enhance the professional practice of teachers. The digital future is literally happening now.

Using technology for educational purposes provokes student's curiosity, boost their engagement, and leads to better learning and comprehension. These factors for student's betterment are a priority for every effective teacher and today they can be easily achieved by using digital tools/applications in classroom. In the present chapter, some selected innovative digital tools for classroom have been discussed which foster responsibility, relationships, and respect, and can be used by educators and students particularly in the times of crises.



## 1. Zoom

Zoom is a web-based video conferencing tool with a local, desktop client and a mobile app that allows users to meet online, with or without video. It can be used by teachers to teach online when there is lockdown because of pandemic or any other reason. Zoom users can choose to record sessions, collaborate on projects, and share or annotate on one another's screens, all with one easy-to-use platform. It has chat option to chat with anyone in the meeting. Participants can raise hands while listening the host.

There are two ways of using Zoom; Meetings and Webinars. The most suited for interactive online teaching is Zoom Meetings, while Zoom Webinars is better for lectures. Teachers can choose with which to work at any given time.

Zoom Meetings have practical features that make online teaching easier, such as breakout rooms. These help teachers separate the students into groups, much like you would do in a normal classroom setting.

Each group can communicate with each other and the teacher can be notified to come in and help if needed. Since Zoom became so popular for distance learning, many other online teaching tools have incorporated seamless integrations.



Google Classroom

## 2. Google Classroom

Google Classroom is a free web service developed and designed by Google for educational institutes that aims to simplify creating, distributing, and grading assignments. The primary purpose of Google Classroom is to streamline the process of communicating files between teachers and students.

Google Classroom integrates Docs, Sheets, Slides, Gmail, and Calendar into a cohesive integrated platform for management purposes in student and teacher communication. Students can join a class through a private code, or automatically imported from a school domain. Teachers can create, distribute and mark assignments all within the Google ecosystem. Each particular class creates a separate folder in the respective user's Drive, where the student can submit work to be graded by a teacher. Assignments and due dates are added to Google calendar, each assignment can belong to a category (or topic). Teachers can monitor the progress for each student by reviewing revision history of a document, and after being graded, teachers can return work along with comments.



GoToWebinar

## 3. Go ToWebinar

Go ToWebinar is a platform for education, businesses and sole proprietors, helping them create and deliver online and video conferences with their students, customers, colleagues, stockholders,

and so on. The platform can be used for teaching and learning process as well.



#### 4. Blue Jeans

Blue Jeans Network is the leader in video as a service. They built Blue Jeans videoconferencing platform from the cloud up to provide one secure and reliable solution that supports effortless video, audio, and rich content sharing from anywhere, on any device. The app is suitable to use for teaching learning process; most appropriately suitable for higher classes.



Webex Meetings

#### 5. Webex Meetings

Webex Meetings let us to host online meetings with HD video, audio and screen sharing. Webex Teams back up the platform to keep teaching teams connected through messaging, file sharing, whiteboarding and calling. Webex Events or classes is a solution for hosting interactive webinars, classes or large-scale virtual events.



#### 6. YouTube Live

YouTube Live is an easy way for Teachers/ creators to reach their audience in real time. Whether streaming an event, teaching a class, or hosting a workshop, YouTube has tools that will help manage live streams and interact with viewers in real time. Teachers/Creators can live stream on YouTube via webcam, mobile, and encoder streaming.



#### 7. A Web Whiteboard App

AWW App is the perfect solution for teachers who are used to have a board to write on during class for explaining the things. This is

some sort of digital whiteboard where teachers can annotate/write much like on a regular board.

The integration between AWW and Zoom makes it easier than ever to teach a class online. We can also import PDF and PowerPoint files into AWW.

This app is great for those teachers who enjoy explaining things by showing how it's done.

The boards can be created before a lesson or written on during the lecture. The settings permit students to collaborate or “come up to the board.”



## **8. Remind**

A big and the most important part of school education are communicating with stakeholders like both students and parents. There is no difference and even more important when the learning is being done online.

The Remind App is an advanced messaging system that works in three different ways:

- Reminders for upcoming lessons or due dates of projects and tests.
- Email messaging with students and parents.
- Direct messaging with parents of students

The main feature of the Remind is that all notifications are sent to mobile devices which are empanelled, making it easier for teachers to interact with students and parents.

The app can be integrated with Google Classroom and Google Drive for easy access to class materials. Also, it's easy to send links to Zoom meetings and webinars.

Teachers can set up office hours for timely messaging and control over their private lives.





## 9. Ted Talks

Ted Talks are a great resource for distance learning and teaching. We would not call it exactly a tool of teaching and learning, but more of a repository.

The Ted's website offers videos of 18-minute speeches by world influential speakers on a variety of topics. There are even some Ted talks by kids, which can be greatly inspiring and motivating for students.



## 10. Edpuzzle

Edpuzzle is an app that takes any video and turns the video into an educational lesson video. Teachers can simply add their chosen video, set it up for students with questions about the content and assign it to them via their regular LMS (learning Management System).

Edpuzzle can be integrated with Google Classroom and many other platforms as well.

A notable feature of Edpuzzle is that teachers can easily track student progress. The settings can be toggled for the video and to make added questions un-skippable.

Edpuzzle is the perfect accompaniment for the flipped classroom method, both in face-to-face and virtual classrooms.



## 11. Explain Everything

Explain Everything is all about interaction in a virtual environment with distance learning benefits. The tool is suitable for both teachers as well as students of higher classes. This digital tool allows students and teachers to collaborate on an interactive whiteboard thus encouraging group activities. The software of Explain Everything can also be integrated with Schoolwork, Dropbox, Evernote, GDrive, One Drive and more useful apps. With the drag-

and-drop options, Explain Everything is super easy and intuitive to work with.



## 12. Visme

The tool of Visme is suitable for students and educators. It is one of the great digital tools for classroom interaction; which provide educators and students with tools to create infographics, presentations, reports and more visual content materials. It provides all kinds of templates and graphic resources to help visualize any kind of data or assignment. You can insert videos, make animations, insert links, etc.

Below are some of the solutions Visme offers for educators at any level of teaching.

- Interactive content as presentations and info-graphics
- Visual posters and info-graphics
- Webinar materials
- Interactive schedules
- Syllabus and lesson plans
- Printable lists and worksheets
- Embed third-party content like quizzes and forms
- Share news about a class on social media or email
- Personalized report cards
- Personalized certificates



## 13. Schoolology

The tool is meant for students, teachers, and parents. Schoolology is a learning management system which is free to use and it allows teachers to create and distribute materials, give assessments, track progress, etc. Basically, with Schoolology we can do everything that we do in Google Classroom, plus more features. You can organize content much more easily, embed multimedia within the assignment description, record audio or video within the platform, and have a grade book, set completing rules and many more.



#### 14. Glogster

The tool of Glogster can be used by teachers as well as the students of any level. Glogster is one of the amazing digital tools for virtual classroom teaching; which helps children learn by using visual content. This app allows you to create multimedia posters by combining text information, photos, and videos. The creations are called glogs and stored in a special library called Glogpedia. Containing over 40 thousand different glogs on various subjects and topics, this tool can become one of your most trusted tools for teaching children effectively.



#### 15. Animoto

Video is one of the most engaging media of the modern day which is why you should definitely incorporate video into your classroom teaching. Animoto is one of the digital tools for classroom that can be used by both teachers and students for educational purposes. Animoto helps you create animated videos easily. You can create photo slideshows, stitch various videos together, add text and more images to come up with a truly engaging video in the end. In fact, the tool is very helpful for teachers to make their teaching very interesting and effective. The tool is suitable for both students of any age and teachers.

#### Conclusion

Technology is a friend of education for carrying out the case of education and there is no reason to fight this trend. Right on the contrary, by incorporating digital tools in the present classroom, we can become an effective educational leader who fosters innovation. The technologists of the present world cannot replace the teachers but can help them to play their roles in an effective and efficient way for preparing the future generation for the human cause. There are innumerable digital tools with educational importance but the present paper is a humble collection of different digital tools that can be used by teachers for teaching and by students to learn effectively. The world waits to see the more noble personalities for their research,

innovation and other things to contribute more and more towards this cause of education.

### **References**

1. Aggarwal, J.C. Essentials of Educational Technology Teaching Learning innovations in Education. New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd. 1997. Print.
2. A.M. Van Loon, A. Ros and R. Martens, "Motivated learning with digital learning tasks: what about autonomy and structure?." Educational Communications and Technology, vol. 60, pp. 1015-1032, 2012.
3. Biancarosa, Gina and Gina Griffiths. "Technology Tools to Support Reading in the Digital Age." The Future of Children 22 (2012): 139 - 160.
4. Linda, Harasim. Learning Theory and Online Technology. New York, N.Y.: Routledge Press, 2012. Print.
5. Mangal S.K. and Uma Mangal. Essentials of Educational Technology. New Delhi: PHI learning private limited. 2009. Print.