A STUDY OF AWARENESS AMONG PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS ON MOBILE APPS AS AN INNOVATIVE TOOL IN TEACHING

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Introduction

The power of technology upon education has been immense over the past few decades. The 21st Century has introduced numerous advancements in technology across various sectors. Teachers and their students are no longer limited by time and space. Students can now study and learn in a more time-efficient manner because of the availability of innovative tools for education. Nowadays innovative tools play a prominent role in teaching and learning. One of the recent surveys states that educational apps more popular among kids between age group 5 to 10. In fact, nowadays, teachers are encouraging children to use mobile learning apps. Mobile learning apps create an interesting learning atmosphere. It enables children to secure better grades, strengthening imparting skills to execute assignments and other related activities with precision.

Review of related literature

The broad use of Smartphones and different transportable and Wi-Fi gadgets has converted the traditional teaching method and learning process (Kukulska-Hulme, 2009).

The features of mobile technology such as the portability and information accessibility plays a major role in the enhancement of English language teaching and learning (ElHussein & Cronje (2010)).

The iPhones, iPod, iPad, new handheld gadgets are fuelling to the mobile app fever (Godwin-jones, 2011). Flowerdew and Miller (2005) believe that "interactive models try to introduce a pedagogical listening model that encompasses individual, cultural, social, contextualized, effective, strategic, and critical dimensions". Reviewers and instructors have experimented mobile devices with children to uplift their learning (ramya.g&Madhumathi.p, 2016).

This integration of technology into learning fetched positive outcome that resulted in effective learning (Liu et al., 2014).

According to Lena Lee(2015) "children use not only traditional, typical toys and materials such as blocks, dolls, balls, puzzles, sand, but also, they interact on a daily basis with technology like digital media". Lee conducted a case study in developing the social skill of young children with the use of iPads in schools in the United States. He emphasized the combination of the digital tool with learning among children. This study has increased the interaction of children with others. The use of iPad keeps them focused most of the time and also raised the level of interest. The technological tool has motivated the children to a greater extent.

Need and significance

In order to deal with current education scenario, mobile app developers have launched trendy and engaging apps to rule over the boring education pattern and students are also showing their interest as the mobile app allows them to learn through gamification. Now e-books and education mobile apps become the first choice of learning as it allows them to learn a thing in their comfort zone. The most effective way is to engage with the children while they are using applications. Interaction tendency in children is enhanced by mobile applications.

Today there are thousands of educational apps are available in Play Store and App store for all types and these apps ensure interactive learning of students by transforming the boring lessons with the help of videos and gamification. Educational apps are making things easier for children to understand. Mobile apps in education have been the subjects of considerable educational research in recent years, but the awareness and application of them in the classroom has received limited empirical attention. Hence the investigator strongly desires to get proper attention on these concepts. Therefore the present study entitled "A study of awareness among prospective teachers on mobile apps as an innovative tool in teaching"

Statement of the problem

A study of awareness among prospective teachers on mobile apps as an innovative tool in teaching.

Operational definitions

Prospective Teachers

A student who is studying to be a teacher and who, as part of the training, observes classroom instruction or does closely supervised teaching in an elementary or secondary school. Also called intern, practice teacher. (B.Ed. Curriculum, University of Kerala)

Mobile app

A mobile app is a software application developed specifically for use on small, wireless computing devices, such as smartphones and tablets, rather than desktop or laptop computers.

Objectives

To find out the level of awareness of prospective teachers on mobile apps as an innovative tool in teaching.

Hypothesis

There are prospective teachers with high, average and low levels of awareness regarding mobile apps.

Methodology

Method of study

The investigator adopted normative survey method for the present study

Sample Used:

The sample comprised of 63 prospective teachers from Thiruvananthapuram district by random sampling out of which 54 of them were female and the rest were male.

Tool Used

In this study the investigator developed a questionnaire for the prospective teachers consisting of closed ended items to seek information regarding awareness of prospective teachers regarding mobile apps.

Statistical Techniques Used

For data analysis the investigator used simple percentage method.

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Analysis

The analysis of data regarding the awareness of prospective teachers on mobile apps as an innovative tool in teaching is shown in table 1. It indicates that the total sample of 63 prospective teachers scored 13.5 as their mean score in their awareness on mobile apps as an innovative tool in teaching. The maximum score of the test used for the study is 27. The M + σ value is 20 and M - σ value is 7. Of the total 63 prospective teachers, 17% possess higher level of awareness. 56% possess average and 27% possess lower level of awareness respectively. These values suggest that majority of the prospective teachers possess average level of awareness on mobile apps as an innovative tool in teaching.

Objective 1: To find out the level of awareness of prospective teachers regarding mobile apps as an innovative tool in teaching.

The data for objective 1 has been shown in Table 1 and figure 1

Table 1: Data regarding Mean and Standard deviation of awareness of prospective teachers on mobile apps as an innovative tool in teaching

N	Mean	SD	M + σ	M - σ	High	Average	Low
63	13.5	6.5	20	7	17	56	27

Table 2: level of awareness of prospective teachers regarding mobile apps as an innovative tool in teaching.

Level	No. of students	Percentage
High	11	17
Average	35	56
Low	17	27

Figure 1
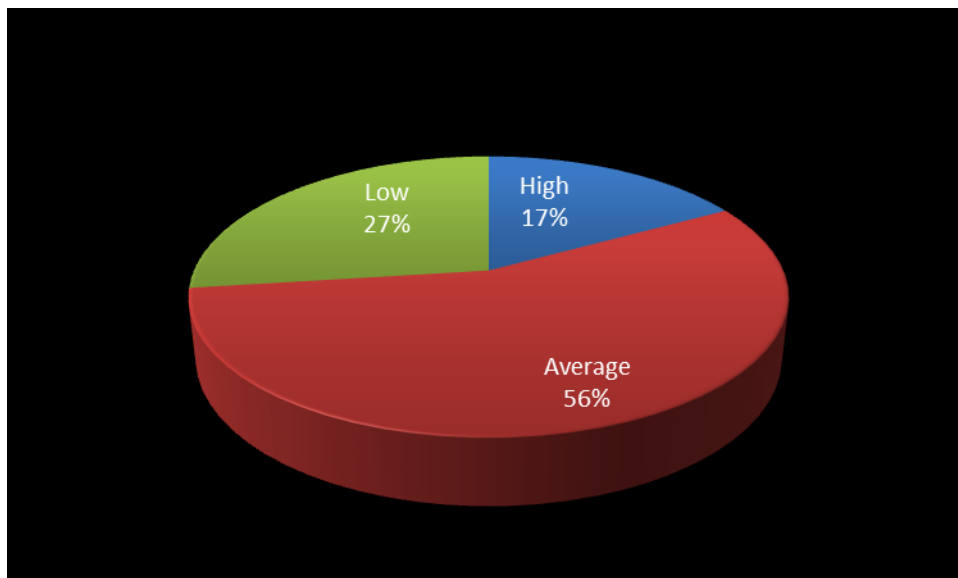
Discussion of results

From the total sample of 63 prospective teachers scored 13.5 as their mean score in their awareness on mobile apps as an innovative tool in teaching. The maximum score of the test used for the study is 27. The M + σ value is 20 and M - σ value is 7. Of the total 63 prospective teachers, 17% possess higher level of awareness. 56% possess average and 27% possess lower level of awareness respectively. These values suggest that majority of the prospective teachers possess average level of awareness on mobile apps as an innovative tool in teaching

Educational Implications

➢ Accelerated development
➢ Cognitive improvement
➢ Educational standards changing
➢ Remote Learning
➢ Informal Learning
➢ Systematic Learning Activated
➢ Leisure Hours Utilization
➢ Availability 24/7
➢ Online resources
➢ Novel learning techniques
➢ Enhanced Interaction

Conclusion

Educational is a broad term. When it comes to mobile apps, there's a diverse range of software that falls under the umbrella of education. The understanding, study, and use of innovative mobile apps and their application to the field of education are increasingly important. Educational tools, especially those related to technology, are populating the market faster than ever before. Available resources and tools range from technology-driven solutions to strategies for creating more interactive and engaging learning opportunities.

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Technology-based solutions for learning allow individuals to determine their own educational path and achievement of competencies through innovative new platforms. Since last few years, Education mobile apps have undergone several significant transformations. There are millions of applications available at the play store, choosing the right one can revolutionize the way a student looks at the process of learning. Hence prospective teaches should have a sound knowledge regarding the various usage and applications of various apps in teaching learning process.

Suggestions

There are uncountable advantages and importance of educational mobile apps for students and school management.

• Opportunities should be given to prospective teachers to familiarize new and innovative mobile apps in teaching.
• Provisions for better learning platform for prospective teachers regarding mobile apps should be organized.
• A large number of schools are developing school apps to improve education, school management and communication in their schools. In the same way teacher education institutions should take steps to promote app development.
• Workshops can be organized institutional level regarding mobile app development.
• Skill development programme in using mobile apps should be organized.
• Awareness programme can be organized for prospective teachers at institutional level.

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