

Death Of English: 'Influence' Of Texting Gets Teachers Worried

Growing trend of young children using mobile phones has not just shown physical health issues but has also hampered their use of English language. Most of the city school teachers and principals feel that increased use of text messaging on mobile phones has impacted the student's use of English which is often reflected in the written exams for English.

While one of the studies done by government hospital on secondary school students showed that out of 316 students, 43 per cent spent at least 30 minutes on mobile phones every day, 5 per cent students spent more than 30 minutes on phone. The study proved as to how this impacts the overall academic performance of students.

Dr Aranha Francesca, a teacher from Central suburban school, said, "Students can use the mobile phones productively. They can use different applications to improve their language and vocabulary. But typing messages on messaging applications have hampered their language. I have often found students writing shortcut words like 'u' instead of 'you' and 'tk' instead of 'thank you' and more such words in essays of English subject."

Another principal Francis Swami, St. Mary's ICSE School, Mazgaon, said, "We don't allow students to bring mobile phones in school. Only class 10 students are allowed to bring mobiles because they go to attend coaching class after school and parents want to know their whereabouts. But we keep creating an awareness among children about the harmful effects of using mobile phones."

While some parents complained to the school principals about the increasing use of mobile phones by their children, others defended stating it helps them to be in touch with their kids.

Priyanka Rajani, principal of Vidyanidhi High School and Junior College, said, "Students use mobiles because of peer pressure. Most of the time parents give them the phones because they want to track a child's movement. They are the one who also complaints about how the phone has distracted their child from studies. "

Source: <https://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-death-of-english-influence-of-texting-gets-teachers-worried-2688053>

How Artificial Intelligence Is Helping Universities Design A Curriculum For Future Jobs That Don't Exist Now

Artificial Intelligence is changing the dynamics of the education industry. We are studying for future jobs that don't exist now. So, how can we design a curriculum to prepare students for those?

Post the year 2000, the world is evolving faster than ever thanks to the explosion of exponential technologies. Since the changes in the education system were slow a few decades ago, the course curriculum was not updated frequently.

However, with today's fast-paced changes in the market, new programmes and a new approach in curriculum design is needed.

By 2022, 37% of the Indian workforce would be employed in new job roles that have radically changed skill sets, says a FICCI-NASSCOM & EY- Future of Jobs report.

According to the report, 9% of India's 600 million estimated workforces would be deployed in jobs that do not exist today. Today there are many jobs which did not exist five years ago.

Under these scenarios, students need to make sure that they choose universities and academic institutes that respond to the urgent need to improve the quality of existing programmes.

Redesigning curriculum and offering new courses which will be relevant for future jobs is the need of the hour.

Skill development of Indian students

The ever expanding gap between academia and the real world has resulted in a whole generation of students who while undoubtedly talented, intelligent, and hardworking, simply do not have the skillsets required for employment.

This is especially true in the tech world, and when we look at the statistics, we discover a very chilling reality.

Up to 60% of the 800,000 engineering students who graduate from Indian universities each year are unemployed according to a report by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

In cities like Delhi, the mean salary for an engineering diploma holder is lower than that of the average cook or driver. With appalling numbers like these, it's no wonder that in the academic year 2017-2018 the AICTE shut down 800 technical colleges.

3 steps to design a curriculum to prepare for future jobs using AI and big data

To make designs for new educational programmes, we need market analysis that shows the need for these changed designs, shows the gap between demand and supply, and designs a curriculum that bridges the gap between demand and supply and identifies the right faculties.

1. At the very initial stage, in considering a new programme, we should ask: Is there a need for this new programme (or a significant change to an existing one)? But how do you do it? Ask industry experts?

Currently, most of the universities rely on curriculum advisory board which is not sufficient. AI and Big Data Analytics is helping to analyse the need of programme; competitor analysis; industry trends etc

2. Once we decide that a new programme is needed, the second step is to design the course curriculum. '

Perhaps the second most important factor to consider when designing a new programme and its course curriculum is linking to the learning outcome which traditionally centred on knowledge, skills and attitudes students possess when they graduate from a programme.

3. We need to make sure that the subject matter it entails is relevant to not just the current job market, but also to the future. It can be done by analysing market trends and skills requirement through the proper implementation of big data analytics and AI.

This is in sharp contrast to the traditional method of course formulation which involves using focus groups of industry professionals, subject matter experts and academicians.

2 ways AI and big data can help design university curriculum

1. Artificial intelligence and big data can analyse the thousands of jobs available in different functional areas and technologies in various geographies and also the skills needed to meet these jobs requirements. Based on relevant data acquired through big data and AI, the new curriculum can be designed.

2. Job trends change with changing market requirements and technologies. Artificial intelligence can help in identifying various jobs in demand and the skills needed to meet these job requirements. Based on the relevant data acquired through AI and analysis, the new curriculum can be designed.

- Article by Bhupesh Daheria, Founder of mUniCampus.com, AI & Digital Stack for Higher Ed

Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/featurephilia/story/artificial-intelligence-can-design-curriculum-to-prepare-for-future-jobs-html-1404544-2018-12-07>

Need to Crave for Education System Where Everyone Can Express Freely: Pranab Mukherjee

Former president Pranab Mukherjee said academics is not the only sphere which makes an individual successful in life but holistic development as well.

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New Delhi: We need to crave for an education system where everybody is able to express themselves freely without the fear of being misjudged, former president Pranab Mukherjee said here on Monday.

Mukherjee was addressing the gathering at 28th Annual Day celebrations of Ramjas School, Anand Parbat.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. The world around us is moving at a fast pace. We don't have time to delve into our conscience. Though, a lot of positive developments have taken place in the education sector we still have a long way to go," he said.

"We need to crave for an education system where everybody is able to express themselves freely without the fear of being misjudged," Mukherjee said.

The former president lauded the students who were awarded for their exemplary performance, saying academics is not the only sphere which makes an individual successful in life but holistic development as well.

"Let us create an appropriate atmosphere and ambiance. We have attained much but we are yet to achieve much more as India is not a small nation which belongs to a particular group of people.

"The social economic transformation is the objective which is yet to be achieved and for that young students whose foundation lay at school will strengthen them to face the challenges of real life," Mukherjee said.

We need to inculcate spirit among children that nobody is their enemy and everybody is their friend and should be treated accordingly, he added.

The Ramjas Foundation established its first unaided primary school in May 1971 under the name of Ramjas School (Anand Parbat).

Source : <https://www.news18.com/news/india/need-to-crave-for-education-system -1959331.html>

Political Parties Welcome Maharashtra's Move To Restart Students' Polls In Universities

Political parties have welcomed the state's decision to restart students' elections in universities and its affiliated colleges. Many feel it will help produce efficient leaders and end dynastic politics. Parab Alavani, a BJP MLA from Vile Parle said that earlier government had banned students' elections 25 years ago. The reason they gave was crime and violence. "But banning student elections had killed the process of producing leaders. Therefore, in recent times, we saw only leaders from the established political families only," he said.

According to Alavani, today's students' leaders could be tomorrow's politicians. "One cannot learn politics and leadership through any academic course. It has to be learnt via the elections process only. In student elections, anyone gets an opportunity and exposure to showcase their leadership skills," he said.

He blamed the ban for dynastic politics – MLA's children becoming MLA, MP's children becoming MP and ministers. "As a result, many deserving party workers never got a chance to prove their leadership skills. But now through student elections, we will get fresh faces in politics," Alavani said.

Bhai Jagtap, Congress MLC who scaled ranks from student elections said the move was excellent. He said that in a democracy, elections play a vital role. "My own leadership skills were honed students' elections. If there were no students' elections that time, I would not have been a leader today. Therefore, I have immense respect for the student election process," Jagtap said.

He further said that the students' election is the right platform to groom future political leaderships. "A student gets to vote at the age of 18 in college, he/she gets first-hand experience of our democratic process. But care needs to be taken while conducting elections," he said. According to him, there was a phase when hooligans marred elections with kidnapping and murder. "The reason why students' polls were banned 25 years ago," Jagtap said.

Jitendra Ahwad, another NCP MLA who also started his political career as a student leader said that it will curb dynastic politics. "The student elections are the main and right platform to produce good leaders. Once it starts, people will start accepting the natural leaders rather than imposed dynastic leadership," Ahwad said.

Source: <https://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-political-parties-welcome-maharashtra-s-move-to-restart-students-polls-in-universities-2681489>