India Today School Summit 2017: Personalised learning takes centre-stage

Can mobile applications lead the way in personalised learning?

Preeti Goyal of Great Lakes Institute of Management, Viplav Baxi of Oxford University Press and Monica Malhotra Kandhar of the MBD Group on how app-based learning is the future of education.

We have moved to the age of digital learning with students preferring mobiles over textbooks when it comes to education. The third panel discussion of the day began with a talk on the benefits and challenges of personalised learning through mobile apps.

The speakers, Preeti Goyal, head of student affairs and faculty, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Viplav Baxi, Director, Product and Digital Transformation, Oxford University Press, and Monica Malhotra Kandhari, Managing Director, MBD Group, discussed the trend of e-learning, its benefits and shortcomings and how it aids education overall. The speakers pressed upon e-learning as the need of the hour.

"We see a rise in the purchase of mobiles, increase in internet accessibility and rise in the consumption of apps. This proves that m-leanring is going to be the medium of imparting education and we have to move in this direction so that students remain interested in studying," says Kandhari. Preeti Goyal and Viplav Baxi agree. "M-learning is a part of the broader category of e-learning and mobiles are gong to be game changers as everyone owns one now. It is very easy for students to adapt to anything that comes their way and thereby easier for educators to get them on board with new ideas and concepts," says Goyal.

Baxi takes the discussion forward by talking about how apps help in learning. "There are a lot of apps in the market today and the biggest change they've brought about is bringing the community together. Apps are changing how parents and students are interacting and collaborating. They are more about getting to a place where communities can come together," he says.

CAN APPS REPLACE TEXTBOOKS?

While apps are definitely the future of learning, they won't replace traditional textbook-based education, say speakers.

"Mobile learning or app based learning is only a tool that aids education; it cannot replace traditional systems. These platforms make it easier for students to learn and for teachers to analyse their class, but we are not evading one method of learning for another. One doesn't lose their approach to one particular system," says Kandhari.

Goyal adds to this saying that institutes of higher learning nowadays are moving towards making the whole learning process online. "From assignments to class lectures, everything can be imparted online. We don't have to walk around carrying papers and students can get results instantaneously with learning management systems," she says, speaking about how educational institutions are embracing e-learning.

HAZARDS OF TECHNOLOGY

When asked about addiction and health hazards of constant use of technology, the speakers feel that it is something that cannot be evaded in this day and age, but using it for constructive education is better than spending time on social media. "Technology is here to complement learning and not replace traditional systems," says Kandhari, "We've already crossed that threshold of addiction, so we might as well use it constructively," she adds.

On the topic of gamification and use of entertainment for education, the speakers feel that it is how students are currently able to learn. "The use of technology for this generation is a given. If we as educators don't adapt to their methods, then we will not be effective," says Goyal. "Gamification has been around for 2000 years but its use in education nowadays allows students to absorb more," says Baxi.

To read the story online Click Here