EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Educational Technology is a new area like educational philosophy, educational sociology, educational psychology, measurement and evaluation in education. Educational Technology provides the basis for the planning and organization of resources for learning and helps in achieving the teaching objectives.

Concept

To help you understand the meaning of Educational Technology, Technology is essential. Therefore, we are throwing light on the meaning of the terms education, science and technology in this section.

The Latin word 'Educatum' means to train. 'E' means from inside and 'Duco' means to draw out, to lead out or to bring up. These terms, probably the routes of the word ‘education’ refer to the process of education i.e., drawing from within. Each child is born with some innate tendencies, capacities arid inherent powers. Education draws these powers out and develops them to the full. Latin words 'Educare' and 'Educere' mean to bring up, to lead out and to develop etc. In this way, the word education means to develop the inborn qualities of a child to the full.

It is very important to understand the meaning of Technology first and then the meaning of Educational Technology. It is because the entire creation and construction which the science has encouraged is all due to the medium of Technology. The progress of developed countries like America and Russia took place on the basis of science and technology only. J.K. Galbraith, in his book The New Industrial State, has given two main characteristics of every technology. These are: (1) Systematic application of scientific knowledge to the practical tasks, and (2) The division of the practical tasks into sections and sub-sections. In the field of education, any technology which meets these two norms of the characteristics is called educational technology. Educational Technology defines teaching- objectives in behavioral terms. It is that science on the basis of which various methods and techniques are developed and constructed in order to achieve pre-determined teaching objectives. Thus, when the teaching objectives get determined, then educational technology comes into existence to achieve them.

First of all, it creates conditions by interpreting the input during the teaching process. It selects and applies the appropriate strategy for The following the teaching objectives .

In the. end, looking at the output or abilities of the pupils, it is evaluated whether the teaching objectives have been achieved or not. If not, then what changes should be brought about in the teaching strategy or strategies so that the teaching objectives may be achieved.

Hence, educational technology includes three processes.

1 Functional analysis of teaching-learning process in which the teacher observes all tthose components which are applied as input and these come to light through output.

2 Separate or combined search and analysis of those components which are used in the teaching-learning process during input and output.

3 Presenting the acquired learning experiences in the form of research-outcomes.

The following definitions will make the meaning of educational technology clear:

* "Educational Technology is the systematic application of scientific knowledge about teaching learning and the conditions of learning to improve the efficiency of teaching and training."- G.O. Leith
* "Educational Technology may be defined as the application of the laws as well as recent discoveries of Science and Technology to the process of education." - S.S. Kulkarni
* "Educational Technology is that branch of educational theory and practice concerned primarily with the design and use of message which control the learning process." -E.E.Hadden

Educational Technology is concerned to provide appropriately designing learning situations which, holding in view of objectives of the teaching or Training, being to bear the best means of instruction." – Richmond

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The characteristics of Educational Technology are as follows:

* Educational technology is based on the application of the scientific knowledge.
* Educational Technology has contributed in developing various methods, for example, micro-teaching method, simulated teaching, interaction analysis, audio-visual aids and programmed learning method.
* In the field of educational technology, psychology, science, technology, system analysis audio-visual aids and machines are used.
* Educational technology is helpful in making the teaching process objective, easy, clear, interesting and scientific.
* In educational technology, the provision of measuring tools is emphasized for the evaluation of learning outcomes.
* Desired changes are possible in the behaviour of teachers and pupils.
* Educational technology is a continuous and dynamic technology.
* Educational technology encourages learning by controlling the environment.