



IMPACT OF MOBILE APPS IN EDUCATION: A Comparative Study of Rural and Urban Schools in Kerala

Lovely Joseph Pullokaran

Abstract: The mobile application marks a tremendous change in the education sector. It changed the classroom atmosphere and the children are getting advanced learning methods which encourage them in an innovative manner. This research was conducted to analyze the impact of mobile applications in education sector. For the purpose of study schools from rural and urban areas of Kerala were selected. The data used in the analysis was collected from the teachers, students and their parents of these selected schools through direct interview method. Results indicate that mobile apps are important which makes a child self learner and innovative. Innovative and user friendly apps are using in many schools in order to record the academic performance of students, attendance lists etc which can be easily communicated with the parents that make them updated about their child's performance

Index Terms- Mobile application, children, education, self learner, innovative, user friendly

INTRODUCTION

Learning is a continuous process. It is an activity or process of acquiring knowledge or skill by studying, practicing, being taught or experiencing something. Students have different interests and talents. Usually the traditional education follows strict schedule and teachers and books are the main sources of information. These students are restricted to certain knowledge which is gained from books and lectures. Whereas students can learn from anywhere at any time. That is why we call modern learning or e-learning as students centered. E-learning provides unlimited source of information compared to traditional learning method. Now in education sector mobile applications has a significant role in learning. These mobile applications have the potential to assist all forms of education.

Benefits of Traditional Learning

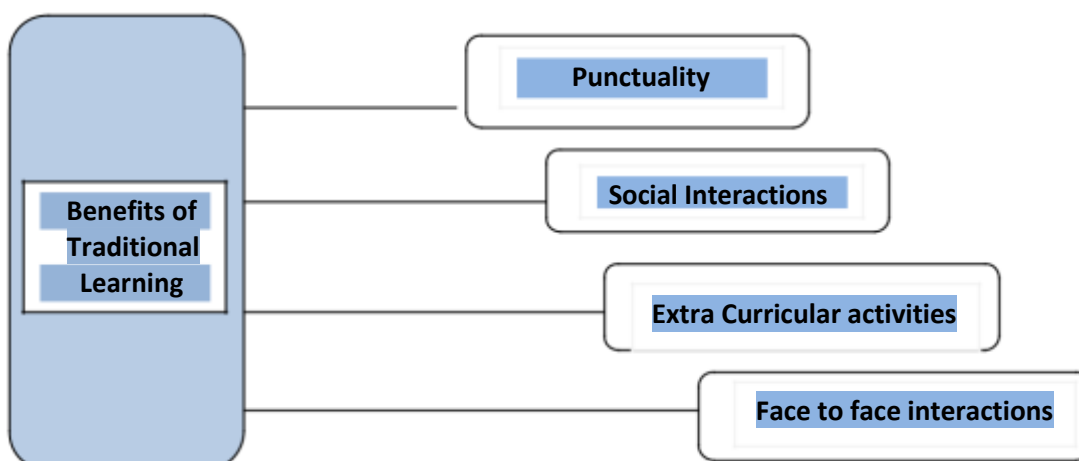


Figure: 1

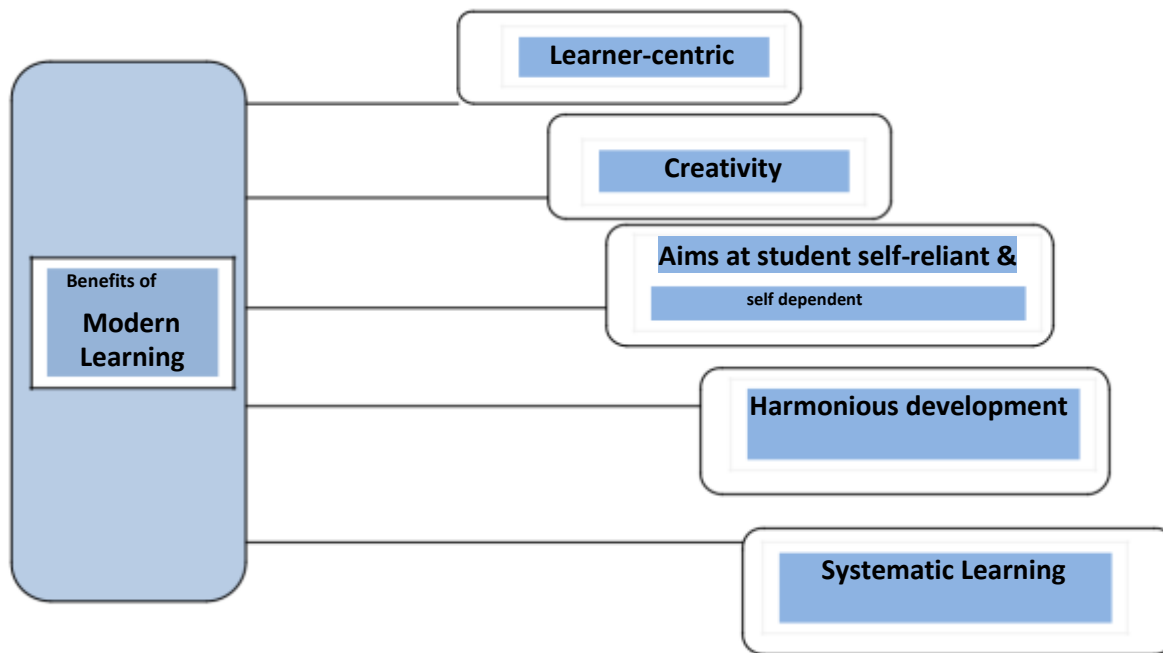
Benefits of Modern Learning

Figure: 2

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To know the effectiveness of Mobile app in education
2. To assess the importance of Mobile app among teachers and parents
3. To know the attitude of students in rural and urban schools towards the Mobile app

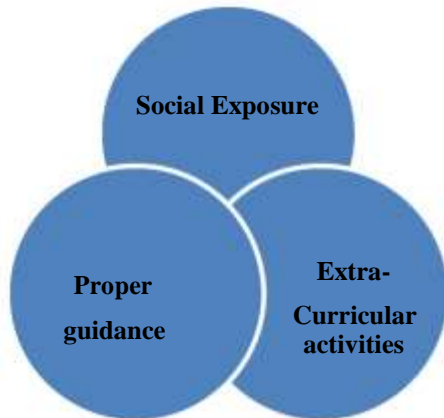
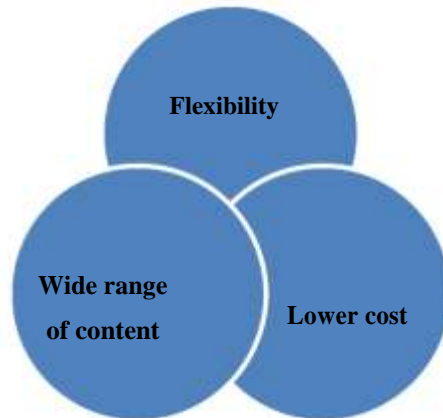
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Learning is very important in human behaviour. According to Albert Einstein “once you stop learning you start dying”. So learning is a phenomenon that is natural to all organisms including both humans and animals. Learning has a great significance in a child’s development. Also intellectual skills are developed through learning. Learning is essential for taking decisions regarding right or wrong actions. Thus process of learning continues throughout our life.

- “The process of acquiring new knowledge and new responses is the process of learning” (Woods worth)
- “Learning is the process by which the individuals acquires various habits, knowledge and attitudes that are necessary to meet the demands of life, in general” (G.D Boaz)
- “Learning is the relatively permanent change in a person’s knowledge or behaviour due to experience. This definition has three components:1) the duration of change is long term rather than short term; 2) the locus of the change is the content and structure of knowledge in memory or the behaviour of the learner; 3) the cause of the change is the learner’s experience in the environment rather than fatigue, motivation, drugs, physical condition or physiologic intervention” (Richard E.Mayor)

Traditional Learning and Modern Learning

Traditional education comprises of books, pen, blackboard and chalks. By sitting in the classroom students acquires knowledge from teachers present in the classroom and there is always direct assistance from them. Whereas learning through internet or online has arrived as a modern learning techniques. Acquiring knowledge through various online platform or mobile educational apps attracted the students to a great extend. Modern education depends on computers and internet. When we think about traditional learning and modern learning the main difference that usually point out is sitting in a traditional classroom and sitting in front of a computer. Apart from this, there is also difference in technology, learning style, learning environment etc which influence the learners.

Key Factors**Traditional Learning****Modern Learning****Figure: 3****Mobile Apps**

Mobile app can be defined as “a software application developed specifically for use on small, wireless computing devices, such as Smartphone’s and tablets rather than desktop or laptop computers “Mobile applications offers certain services like online shopping, online banking, plying animated games etc.Mobile apps can be used with personalised view and customizes settings as per one’s comfort accessibility. As we know today Smartphone has become a crucial part in every individuals life since different type of mobile app are available. Currently the use of mobile apps can be seen in number of areas like education, communication, business, cooking, social media, shopping, banking, matrimony etc.Thus mobile apps are used according to the nature of requirement.

Apps for Daily Life

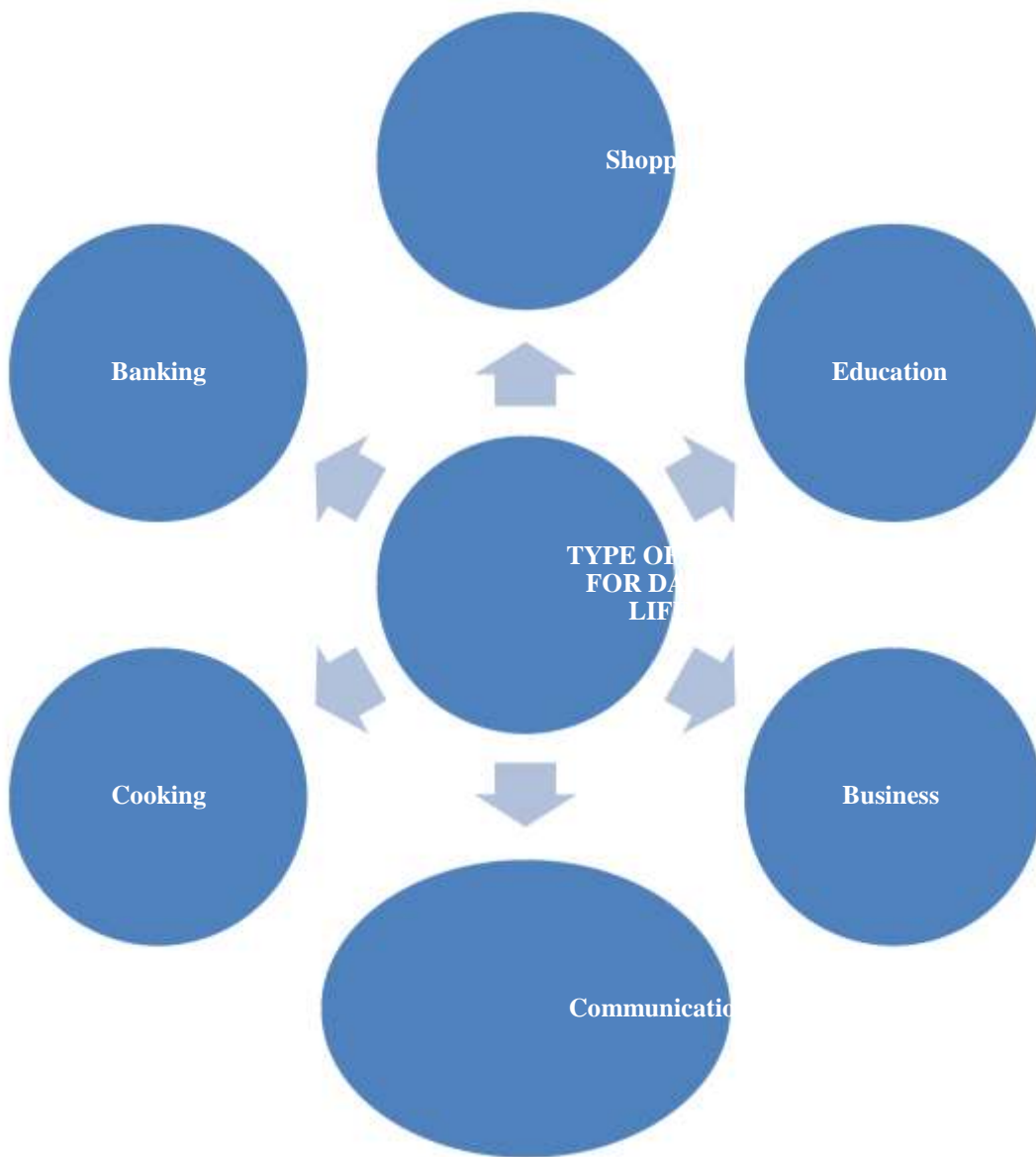


Figure: 4

Categories of Apps and Examples

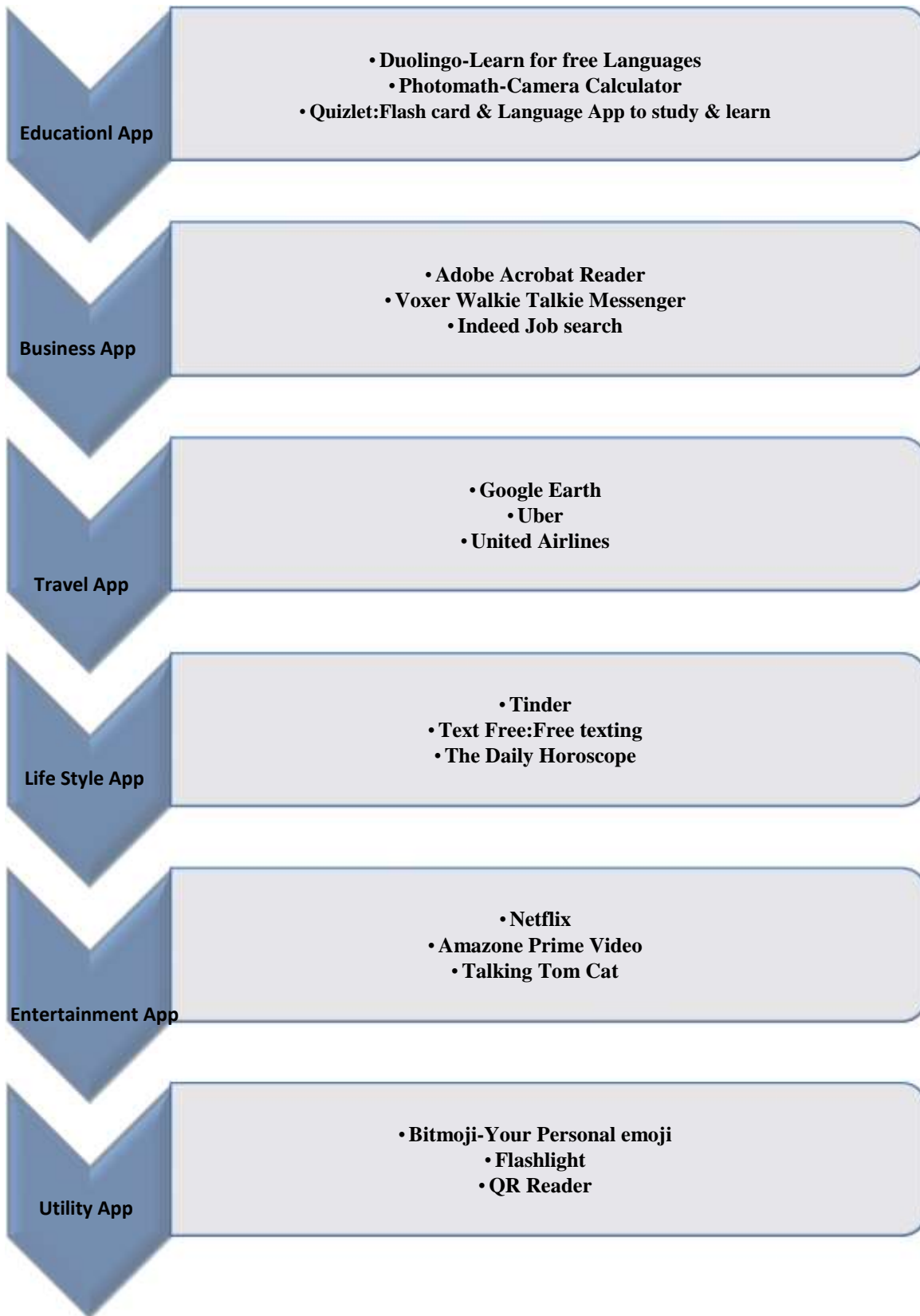


Figure: 5

E-Learning

- E-Learning can be defined as “instructions delivered through digital devices with the intend of supporting learning”. (Clark and Mayer, 2016)
- E-Learning as “using internet technologies for enhancing performance and knowledge” (Ruiz, Mintzer and Leipzig, 2006)

Concept Evolution



Benefits of Mobile Apps in Education

- Enhance classroom performance
- Improve technical skill
- Making learning fun
- Individually focused learning
- Effective communication
- Video oriented learning
- Maximise time usage
- Portability and mobility
- 24/7 availability
- Systematic learning

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For this study qualitative interviews were conducted. It consists of close and open ended questions. The data was collected from students, teachers and parents. The participants in this study were students, teachers and parents from two Higher Secondary Schools in Kerala. They were 5 students their teachers and parents from a school which located in rural area and 5 students their teachers and parents from a school which located in an urban area.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

From this study I found that the usage of mobile educational app make children more active and there involves a better engagement between children and parents. Certain apps which includes games, puzzles or other challenging task helps to stimulate the brain cells. Students from urban area schools are all familiar with these mobile apps and they are learning and developing their skills through these applications. But situation of school which located in rural area is different. Some of the students in that school are regular learners, but majority of the students are not the users of mobile apps for learning. And the school also not having any such mobile app for their campus.

Students of both schools using mobile app for learning had a positive change in their academic performance. School which located in an urban area is having their own mobile app for doing academic activities, paying tuition fees, library fees etc. Today's parents are busy with their work, so it may not be possible to maintain the rapport through physical interactions. But with the help of mobile app teachers are able to attend the queries of parents at any time through their smartphone. Also these app stay updated about timetables, campus events, alerts and other information. Students and teachers have a positive attitude towards mobile applications. For parents, they also have a positive opinion towards the mobile app as they can track the progress of their child, their academic performances, their skill etc can be viewed with the help of mobile app. Students are using the mobile app for learning purposes since it provides unlimited resources at anytime which makes learning relaxed.

CONCLUSION

In this paper results indicate that mobile applications have a positive impact on students. They are attracted to the mobile educational apps because of its certain features like user friendly atmosphere, systematic learning, 24/7 availability etc. Parents and teachers support the mobile educational app for learning, also other mobile apps for performing academic activities in their schools. Schools that are not using such mobile apps can consider it for the betterment of their school. Today's education world is totally different from that of traditional education. We should say that traditional and modern education is equally important. Traditional education was good in its period. Since the needs of people are changing, system of education has to change. And it should be accepted by the people for the growth of education.

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