



Podcasting in Teacher Education

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Abstract :

Podcasting is very much popular in the youths for having recreation and this medium can effectively be used in education. Podcasting provides an additional flexible learning resources for the students. Podcast offers innovative and creative opportunities for academics for enhancing further learning. Thus this paper describes what is podcasting and how podcasting can be used in B.Ed curriculum. This paper may be useful to teachers and institutions in providing multimedia content for students.

The role of teacher education is very important factor in the development of nation. No country can develop until and unless it concentrates on education. The education needs to be of high quality. The quality of education should be higher. Education is right for the every person. As we are aware that India is the country of farmers where main occupation of the people is agriculture and 2/3 of the population resides in villages. India is having a rich heritage of diversities with various religions, languages, culture and socioeconomic status. The school curriculum constructed according to general perspectives of the children that is their age, mental development etc. yet the teacher have to make certain techniques, translation according to region that is rural/urban, students preview knowledge etc. as there is a prescribed & standard curriculum for each class.

Thus in order to maintain the quality of education. It should continuously changes and development in the society. 21st century is the century of information and technology. And 21st century is experiencing a knowledge explosion i.e every body is having tremendous access to the source of knowledge i.e internet, Wikipedia, e library, e journals, various social networking sites. All give open access to knowledge yet from this ocean of knowledge. One

should be able to adapt the needful information or knowledge and should be able use this knowledge making certain alternations.

Until how much emphasis is given on ready made use of the knowledge or using internet or multimedia facility but now time has come that teacher should prepare their own lectures, teaching materials and be able to make it available online and for this podcasting is an answer.

What is podcasting:

Podcasting basically means creating audio files (most commonly in mp3 format) and making them available online.

The term podcast came from combining the words ‘ I pod and broadcasting’ originally it referred to audio programs on the internet which can be subscribe to use an RSS feed (i.e RSS = really simple syndications; as RSS feed automatically alert subscribes to the podcast site of updated podcast). The subscribers may use open source softwares like juice or tune to manage their subscriptions (i.e they can download anything, anytime, anywhere what they want on their computers).

Podcast can be listened to on a computer, I pod, MP3 players, PDA or phone. Podcasting on advance version accompanies subscribable video which are called as video podcast, vidcast or vodcast etc. As podcast are available online thus users can automatically download the files for listening at their convenience (i.e subscribing to the podcast). After subscribing to the podcast all the future broadcast automatically download to your computers which can then be easily transferred easily to handheld such as palm handheld a packet PC or an I pod hence the name podcast.

Anyone can prepare a personal radio program/show if he is having an computer, internet access, free software and a microphone.



Educational importance of podcast:

- 1) Podcast allows students to share learning experience.
- 2) It provides worldwide audience that makes learning meaningful and assessment authentic.
- 3) Teachers can use technology to provide additional teaching materials to the students.
- 4) These teaching materials can be available online.
- 5) Podcasting provides flexibility in time shifting which makes it important educational tool.
- 6) It gives up to date information regarding the lectures or the new contents, schedule etc.
- 7) It enables teachers to provide additional medium of interaction with the students.
- 8) It is useful for students with learning difficulties.
- 9) It is important medium of cooperative learning.

By viewing the above educational importance it appears to be born for the B.Ed curriculum. B.Ed profession is the 1 year degree course which consists of small workshops which is conducted during the academic session. In B.Ed curriculum teacher trainee are polished in such a manner that they should adapt the teaching skills within themselves. And these skills are taught through various teachers are missed then the students don't get opportunity to learn that skill properly. Then podcasting is an answer to this. Thus teacher educators can create an archive of class lectures that students can listen to at their own convenience. As this technology is new teacher educators can use it to broadcaster their content, lecture etc. but its use can be extended beyond its limit by making video films and at the same time when the videos will be broadcast it will be available online and students all over the world will get benefits of that at their convenience they will hear it.

Uses of podcasting in B.Ed curriculum	Beneficiaries
Students can record and upload their lessons to their teacher education websites.	Students, teachers
Teacher educators can listen and see to the lesson on MP3 at their convenience.	Teacher educators
Teacher educators can record their lectures.	Students, teacher administrators
Recorded lectures is distributed directly to students MP3 files	Students, teachers
Recorded lessons of various types for e.g- microteaching models of teaching, technology based, team teaching	Students, faculty
Recorded conferences, seminars, meeting	Students, faculty, staff, administration.

Students projects and projects supporting interviews	Students and teachers
Digital archiving of achievements and awards of the institutions	Students, teachers, public
Faculty and recruitment	Students, alumni etc.
Podcasts could be listened before class to allow for in class discussion to be devoted to discussion only.	Students, teachers

Limitations :

- 1) Podcasting system is expensive.
- 2) Teachers as well as students should be able to handle it properly.
- 3) Many time network problems arise.
- 4) Load shielding.
- 5) Maintenance is unbearable on part of students as well as teachers.
- 6) Use of podcasting services will be difficult for the rural students.

Conclusion:

Thus we need to be serious about educating today's digital natives for the digital knowledge landscapes twenty first century. Thus teacher educators as well as teacher trainees should adapt podcasting as one more mode of technology for interaction between the teachers and students. Podcasting has become a major features of today's society and has emerged as a means for supporting learning within the institution. Thus podcasting offers one interactive medium for enhancing teacher as well as student experiences.

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