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Featured

WHY PEER ASSESSMENT IS AN EFFECTIVE LEARNING METHOD

A STUDENT CENTERED METHOD TO FACILITATE LEARNING IN CLASS

10 Apps
for Teachers You Should Know About!

Exclusive

IN CONVERSATION WITH
GAUTAM JANI
FOUNDER OF FITNESS WITH GOMZI

FEATURED ACCREDITATIONS

Institutes displaying commitment towards quality learning

Editor's Note...

The advancement of Edtech has had a monumental impact on student learning, making the current student age more autonomous. While students are eagerly adopting all the new trends and methods, some educators are still hesitant to allow the use of the mobile phone in class.

Four out of five students reported that the internet and other digital methods helped them improve their grades. Despite that, the usage of traditional methods still dominates the educational system with 80% of teachers using pen, papers, and whiteboards in classrooms. The reason could be the educator's reluctance to get acquainted with Edtech. Mobile applications are one of the simple ways to step into the world of Edtech. So many applications are available on tap away to make everyday tasks simpler. Mobile applications are surely becoming a favorite of traditional educators as well due to their convenience and usability.

Another thing that is helping the teachers become the guide rather than the sage, is peer assessment. With no hint of tech, this method allows teachers to stand on the sidelines and guide the students in the right direction. This is one of the main specimens of student autonomy that gives the traditional class a modern touch without technological interference.

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Student centered methods through EdTech has helped the teachers become a reliable guide on the side rather than sage on the stage.

In light of the aforementioned, in this issue, we are discussing modern methods of learning that are changing the quintessential teacher-centered class system for good.

Jeff Wright, Editor in Chief

CONTENTS

There was a time when cellphones were not allowed in the class and students were punished for bringing in phones. However, times have changed, teachers are learning the student culture and realizing technology is a huge part of it. So rather than resisting it, teachers are using cellphones to their advantage. Cellphones are not all about messaging and entertainment, anymore. They can be used for many purposes when used smartly. Educational applications are the latest teacher assistant that everyone is talking about. There are many apps that are extremely efficient, smooth, and helpful for both students and teachers.

WHY PEER ASSESSMENT IS AN EFFECTIVE LEARNING METHOD

A STUDENT CENTERED METHOD TO FACILITATE LEARNING IN CLASS

The main goal of education is to ensure learning of a student. An education provider or teacher plays a monumental role in making sure that this goal is accomplished. For that purpose, there are various teaching techniques that assist a teacher in accomplishing this very goal. To improve the outcome, teachers use 'assessment methods' to evaluate the performance of a student. Over the years, there have been several researches to assemble the best methods and techniques for effective teaching. All of these methods focused widely on communication and interaction. Student-teacher communication is of vital importance when it comes to enhanced outcome and learning. If the teacher doesn't know what works and what doesn't work for a student, there'll be no improvement. However, it is not only student-teacher communication that boosts up learning. The communication between class peers and mutual bonding is of vital importance to achieve better results, research shows.

When used correctly, this method can be used to reduce or solve major learning dilemmas. It has been proven at multiple instances that academic performance of students improves exponentially when they work together and help each other achieve better results. This method is highly recommended for higher education such as in universities and colleges as at this level students tend to communicate less with each other. Consequently, the purpose of class is reduced to getting good grades and full attendance.

Peer assessment in universities and colleges promote class discussions and an environment where students exchange thoughts and ideas.

Moreover, as discussed earlier, the main purpose of a teacher should be to enhance student learning, and peer-assessment is proven to be students' favorite evaluation method.

IAO inquired university students about the effectiveness of peer-assessment as a learning method, and 90% of the students agreed that peer-assessment positively impacted their learning outcome.

Student satisfaction is of great importance, and students in colleges and universities find this method to be extremely helpful.

A FEASIBLE AND EFFECTIVE METHOD

Many teachers don't conduct formative assessments even though this is an extremely important part to achieve better final results. Those who don't completely ignore it, conduct formative assessment just for the sake of doing it. Mostly, teachers don't have time or are mentally occupied to pay attention to it. IAO found out that formative assessment was more convenient, feasible, and efficient when it was combined with peer-assessment. Some teachers guide their students to review each other's work according to certain criteria.

This review would be a practice and an effort to reach the ultimate goal of enhanced learning, not a goal in itself. Finally, the teacher would review the overall performance of that group rather than that of one student. This approach not only saves teacher's time but saves the student from a rushed and meaningless formative assessment. Another benefit of this approach is that it would increase the credibility of student assessment of each other's work, which can sometimes be biased.

Quick Feedback Expedites Learning

Feedback is positively correlated with enhanced learning. Students who get regular feedback tend to perform better. Although, in universities and colleges it can be hard for teachers to provide an appropriate and timely feedback to all the students, whereas individualized feedback becomes almost impossible. There are many educators who understand the importance of formative assessment and conduct it by the book. Although, they may take a lot of time in getting back to the student, which refutes the whole concept of formative assessment.

Research shows, that results of formative assessment should be provided as soon as possible since it gives the student more time to work on mistakes.

The main purpose is to let students know of their mistakes while the knowledge is still fresh. In peer-assessment, students can review one another in a quicker, more efficient way. Computer-based assessment may not be the most convenient method for teachers, but students can communicate with one another at home through emails, and other social media applications. Peer-assessment combined with computer-based assessment leads to quicker results and becomes more effective when it is supervised by a teacher. A brief assessment can even be done right there in the classroom, and later students can conduct a detailed self-assessment. Therefore, a quick-reviewed assignment speeds up the process of improvement and facilitates the student's learning.

Enhanced General Learning of Students Involved in Peer-Assessment

The learning of a student in peer-assessment is not merely retained to syllabus. It is a wide method that nourishes general learning and other core skills of a student as well. All students involved in peer-assessment benefit from it, even the ones evaluating the assignment. Students in this method learn to take positive criticism when teachers point out their mistakes. Moreover, it increases their teamwork potential and enhances group performance which could be useful in long run. Evaluating the work of others also hones up the students' critical thinking and problem-solving skills, making peer-assessment an overall effective method.

PEER-ASSESSMENT IMPROVES OVERALL CLASS PERFORMANCE

A teacher is using the same evaluative method on all the students, but why is it working for a few and not for others? Simple answer is that every student has a different need, what works for one might not work for another. Although all teaching methods are very effective, they may not work the same for every student in the class. This issue requires a method that helps all the students achieve better academic results. There are various ways to deal with this problem, but one widely recognized way that teachers have adopted is peer-assessment.

A teacher may adopt different methods to assess a student's academic readiness, learning skills, and educational needs. However, peer-assessment process could work even more efficiently since it involves students communicating and helping each other improve. Constructive criticism of each other's work, sharing tips and ideas to improve, and analysis of assignments are some parts of peer-assessment. Since all of the parts include communication, there are high chances that continuous implication of this method may lead to an equal and enhanced learning outcome for all the students. This approach also paces up the speed of class curriculum, as students are studying together and are up to date with the current syllabus.

FORMATIVE PEER ASSESSMENT IMPROVES FINAL OUTCOME

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Formative assessment can be extremely helpful for the struggling student due to its casual approach

Formative assessment which is usually conducted by teacher is a method in which students are evaluated at regular intervals. The main purpose of this method is to achieve better results in summative assessment, but a failed formative assessment would have no impact. Many times it happens that students fail to perform well in a formative assessment which only shatters their confidence and has a negative impact on summative assessment, as well.

In a peer-formative assessment, there is no pressure to fail or get bad marks. Even if the review from a peer is bad, student can focus on improving it, rather than rebuilding their confidence. This small activity can lead to better performance in class formative assessment, which in turn would result in good grades in summative assessment. This interconnection has a direct impact on improved outcomes and enhanced learning.

In Summary

Peer-assessment is not a new method of evaluation. It has been used by teachers in small as well as large settings for casual evaluation, although, experts now recognize it as a proper evaluation method.

There is tons of research to back up the effectiveness and credibility of this method which has now made it a mainstream idea. The management of educational institutes specifically prefer and promote this method in their setting as it is cost-effective, time-saving, and highly beneficial for the students. The effectiveness and time-saving quality of assessment makes it teacher's favorite evaluation method, whereas students prefer it for its casual and formative nature.

It is highly effective for large settings where the number of students are challenging to manage in terms of evaluation, experts believe. Although, it can be just as effective in smaller classrooms as it promotes group learning and creativity. There are some educators who doubt the credibility of this method due to student bias towards one another, but when peer-assessment is carried out with great care and planning, it can achieve the same cognitive, social, systematic results as a staff assessment would.

Featured Accreditations

IAO accredited institutions enjoy plenty of benefits both from business and educational perspective. Institutions that have been accredited by IAO observed noticeable student retention due to which many institutes are now eager to be recognized by IAO. In this issue, we have included some of the most committed institutes that acquired a global certification from IAO.

The MFW Learning Academy was created in 2018 to institutionalize all MFW training and development under one platform.

The goal of the Academy is to become a specialized training provider and consultancy for individuals and organizations working in microfinance in Jordan and the region, in addition to expanding its extensive capacity building and training services offered to beneficiaries, and potential beneficiaries and their families with respect to gender and inclusion considerations.

FITNESS WITH GOMZI

Established in the year 2018, Fitness with Gomzi in Vesu, Surat is a top player in the category of Dietitian in the Surat. This well-known establishment acts as a one-stop destination of all fitness and diet solutions in Surat and Gujarat.

ITS DENTAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH CENTRE

I.T.S Dental College, Hospital & Research Centre is situated in an Institutional Area (Knowledge Park III) of Greater Noida, U.P. The infrastructure is more than sufficient to fulfill the academic, administrative and residential requirements of the students and faculty and is at par with the best. The college is a self-financed institution, recognized by Dental Council of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and is affiliated to Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut. The College is offering a five year Bachelor of Dental Surgery (B.D.S) with an intake of 100 students per batch and three year Master of Dental Surgery (M.D.S) Programme.

MAWHIBA TRAINING AND POSITIVE MOTIVATION

Mawhiba Training and Positive Motivation aims to train community groups to live life in accordance with the 21st century's norms and tech. The ambition is to spread positive awareness and develop thinking skills of individuals to be more aware and mature of the surroundings around them.
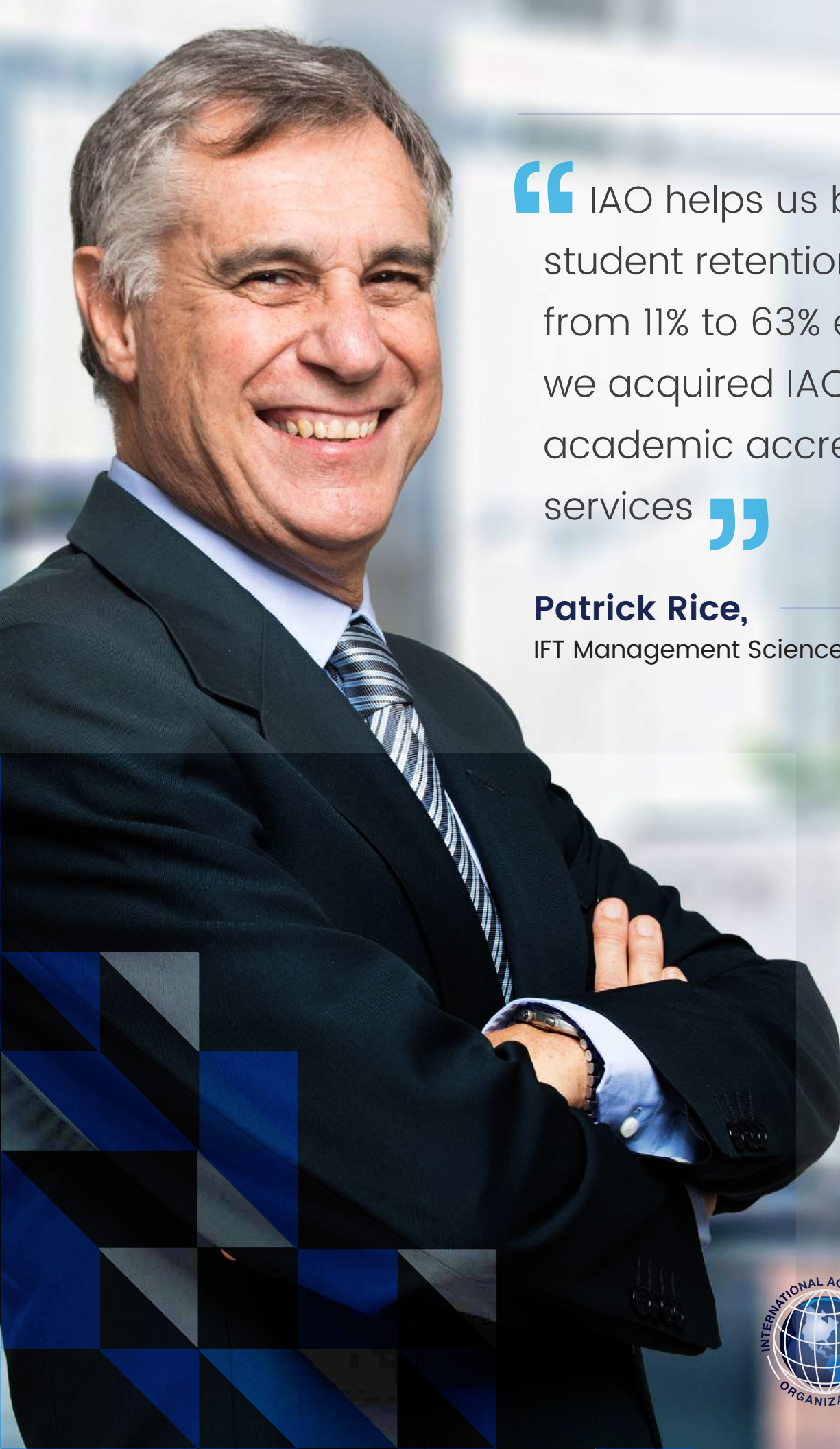
ROTOMAKER
INSTITUTE

Located in Hyderabad, India, RotoMaker is an institute specializing offering training related to VFX rotoscoping, virtual reality services and the like.

The institute is among the very few institutes in India that are leading the charge of equipping the youth with EdTech (tech education).

> **"** IAO helps us boost our student retention rates from 11% to 63% ever since we acquired IAO's academic accreditation services **"**

Patrick Rice,
IFT Management Sciences School

IAO

INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION ORGANIZATION

IN CONVERSATION WITH

GAUTAM JANI

Founder of
Fitness with Gomzi

Q. Could you please walk us through your academic background and achievements? Your extensive and varied experience can be a source of inspiration for many; please share the highlights and milestones of your professional journey.

I started my journey as a certified nutritionist and certified fitness professional back in 2016. I have completed many courses of dietetics, personal trainer, and marathon trainer from ACSM and ISSA.
Ensuring good health of people is not only my profession but also my passion. For that purpose, we have established four centers since the year 2016.
We are one of the fastest-growing fitness and nutrition educators in Surat, Gujarat. We aim to expand and flourish, globally.

Q: Currently heading the institute, what are some of your long-term and short-term goals for the education system?

Our long term goal is to groom high-minded fitness professionals who provide appropriate plans to the clients in need and aid them in their journey towards a healthy life, and in doing so, they can pave a way for themselves in the fitness industry.
Our short term goal is to provide stable jobs to at least 1000 health professionals under our banner in reputed gyms, clinics, and hospitals.

Q. What do you think your biggest challenge is working in the education industry at such a key position?

The biggest challenge is to prepare them with values. Right now, every trainer wants to earn money through temporary arrangements. Ultimately, they'll get tired of doing bland work. We want to acquaint them with the latest tech and patterns of this industry, which would enable them to sustain in the fitness industry for a longer period of time.

Q. During your entire career, which milestone felt most accomplished and why?

Getting accredited by IAO was quite an accomplishment as it has high standards for accreditation.

Q. Educationists are advised usually to share their experience and learning. What method of information-dissemination would you say is most effective for this purpose?

Practical learning like internships and projects are most effective to educate individuals.

Q. Recently, there have been many reports and trends of students opting for alternate methods of education such as distance learning, diplomas, short-courses, etc. instead of traditional degrees. What's your view on this?

We are getting at least 10-15 inquiries each month for online and distance learning courses, initially ratio was 1 or 2 maybe. This is possible due to better technological websites, apps, HD cameras, and sound.

Ending Notes

Q.As an educator, what's your perspective on the current education system in your region and how do you think it can be improved or revolutionized, if required.

In the current system, we need to focus more on practical learning. We observed that after completing the course, trainers are still not capable enough to recommend simpler methods to people because they have only studied the subject in theory.

We want them to learn and experiment with plan-making during their course, not when they are dealing with clients.

Q.Please share your philosophy of the ideal education a person can achieve regardless of its methods and processes. E.g. it could simply be a moment of enlightenment or a life-long struggle to gain perspective, how would you like to describe 'the best education or lesson' one can get.

Practical pattern while learning like internships and projects are most effective to educate individual.

Q.Thank you for taking the time to answer a few questions for IAO Accreditor. Do you have any parting words of wisdom for educationists and students?

Do not rush for money, be eager to help people. That will automatically increase one's reach.
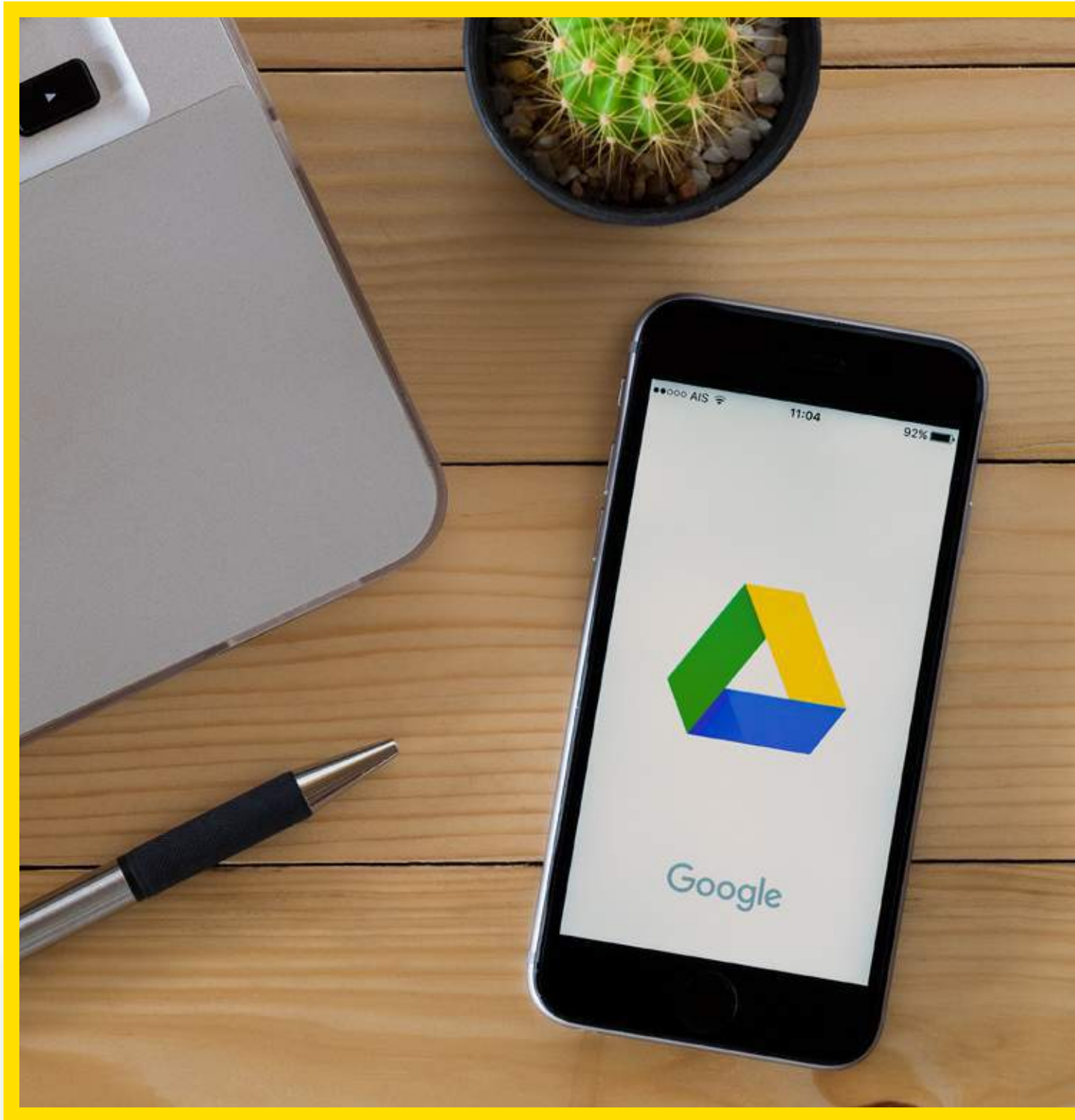
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Top 10 Apps in 2020 for **Smart Teaching**

Students these days have shorter attention spans. It can be challenging for the teachers to keep students attentive throughout the class. After listening to a lecture for 10 minutes, they indulge in distractions such as mobile phones.

There was a time when cellphones were not allowed in the class and students were punished for bringing phones in the classroom. However, times have changed, teachers are learning the student culture and realizing technology is a huge part of it. So rather than resisting it, teachers are using cellphones to their advantage.

Cellphones are not all about messaging and entertainment, anymore. They can be used for many purposes when used smartly. Educational applications are the latest teacher assistant that everyone is talking about.

There are many apps that are extremely efficient, smooth, and helpful for both students and teachers. Here are the top 10 Apps that teachers can use to teach their students in a better and more effective way;

1. Google Drive

It is one of the most common and ultimate favorite storage services of teachers. Google Drive allows the teachers to carry their data in cloud storage that provides up to 15GB storage. It saves the teachers from the hassle of writing down notes on papers and carrying tons of books around. With Google Drive, valuable documents, books, and assignments can all be stored. What makes it a teacher's favorite is that its service is free. All you have to do is log in with Google account and start storing your data. Moreover, usually quick notes or written documents can be lost.

What you write in Google Drive is auto-saved which ensures that your data remains secure in case anything unfortunate happens.

2. Remind

In large settings such as in university or college, it can be challenging for teachers as well as students to remember every small task. It can be annoying to remember about a test for next day when you are on bed, all ready to sleep. Evident from the name, remind is an application that teachers use to keep track of their everyday agendas.

This application comes in extremely handy and saves the teacher form noting down everything on paper, or from adding tons of alarms on their phone. It's not only used to remind teachers of their tasks, but the teacher can use this application to send reminders to students, as well. Teachers can form a group message and send messages to the students to remind them about a class presentation, a test or an assignment. The application also allows image and media attachment.

3. Additio

This is another class/teacher management app that can be used to secure important day to day data. If you are taking attendance on a physical journal, you'd have nothing at the end of the day in case the journal is lost. Additio allows the teachers to skip the thick journals and take student attendance through the app. Although, this is the main feature of this app, Additio also allows the teachers to schedule tests and lectures, and note down student performance. Everyday tasks can be made simpler through this smart application.

4. TED

If you are thinking about steering your class lessons towards a more digital side, then TED application is certainly what you want on your phone. The application has tons of inspirational and educational videos that you can play in the classroom and conduct a little academic yet effective activity for the students. You can also pick out specific videos and add them to your curriculum. This way, students would be spending their time on the internet in a more productive way even when the teacher is not around.

5. Podcast

It is always necessary for the teacher to teach in a way that students find convenient and effective. If you have observed that your students respond well to digital ways to teach, rather than traditional books, then you can use this app to enhance your digital teaching. This application has tons of audio podcasts from educators and experts that could help your students gain better insight into a subject. You can also create your own podcast regarding the subject and send it out to the students to listen ahead of the class. Students may find this method comparatively effective as they can listen to the audio over and over again outside of the class, as well.
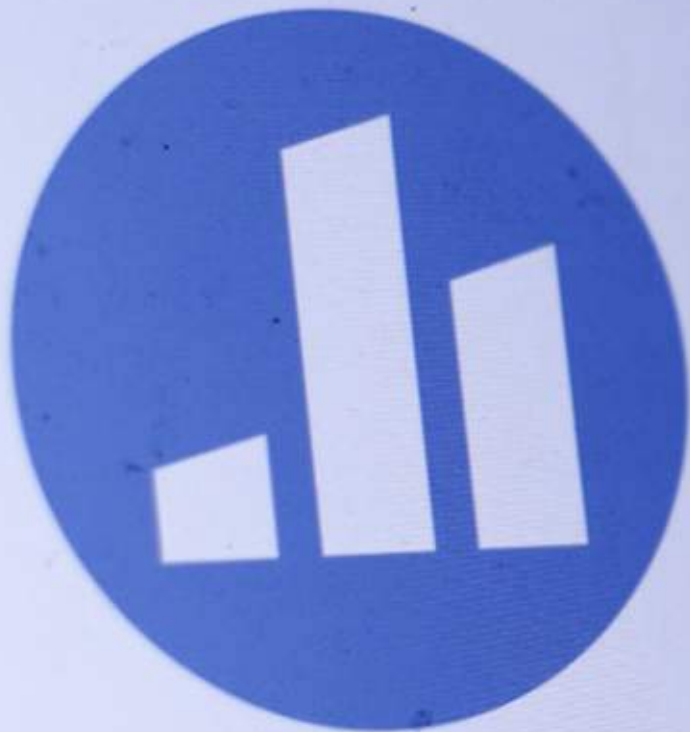
6. Math Formulas

It's not only students who can have a problem remembering all the formulas in mathematics. When you are a teacher, you are teaching different students from different grades, which means tons of different formulas. If you have ever found yourself stuck in a classroom while teaching because you couldn't remember the correct formula, then this app may exactly be what you need. This app has an extensive collection of formulas from algebra to matrices, trigonometry to geometry, all at your disposal.

7. Slack

Slack can be considered as a small virtual office where the students would always find teacher available to help. If you are a teacher who wants to extend your learning beyond the doors of your classroom, then this app is ideal for you. It allows students to post their queries, continue class discussions, and seek individual help. This app can also be used to speed up the feedback process as you can use it anywhere you are and provide quick feedback.

8. StudyBlue

There are several websites that sum up critical topics into simple and catchy slides. Students find those slides easier to read and study from. StudyBlue allows you to create your personalized slides with eye-catching colors, music, and media. You can attach images and sum up the test contents into simpler words. This would certainly help the students ace the exam.

9. Poll Everywhere

This is one of the best apps to enhance your overall class performance. Poll everywhere allows you to conduct fun and brief polls and questionnaire that students can fill out. This could be outside of class activity where students can review what they learned in class. Teachers can form personalized questionnaires regarding the topic that was covered in class and analyze whether students understood it or not. Moreover, teachers can also use this app to analyze their teaching method by getting anonymous feedback from the students.

10. Educreations

Educreations is a virtual whiteboard which gives you the freedom to teach from wherever you want. If you are a teacher who is teaching from home, you no longer have to conduct lengthy video calls. By using Educreations, you can draw and write on the virtual white space and even add audio to the file. This would turn the whole experience into a live class environment. This media is shareable and can be replayed at any time.

In Summary

With ever-changing student culture, more teachers are adopting digital methods of teaching. Teachers believe that students find it easier to understand the language of tech and they perform well.

They also believed that the curriculum was completed faster and efficiently when a digital method such as mobile applications was involved. It is for the same reason, that more universities and colleges are adopting digital methods of teaching, as it has proven to have a pleasant impact on teachers as well as students' performance.

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