

Teachers' Attitude towards Usage of Digital Links in the Textbooks of Standard I

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Abstract: Attitude plays an important role in shaping the thinking and delivering capacity of the individual concerned. This study examines the attitude of primary school teachers working in Tirunelveli district towards using digital links in the textbooks of standard I. The main objective of the study was to find out the significant difference, if any, in the attitude of the primary teachers towards using digital links in the textbooks with regard to personal and institutional variables. A sample of 300 primary school teachers from various schools in Tirunelveli was derived by simple random sampling technique. The findings of the study revealed that there was no significant difference in the attitude of primary teachers towards using digital links in the textbooks with regard to personal and institutional variables.

Keywords: Attitude, Digital links, Textbooks, Primary teachers.

1. INTRODUCTION

Digital link is based on technology. Now a days those digital links were available even in the textbooks of standard I. The purpose of bringing digital links in school textbooks is to help students to understand the chapters of any subject better. This is because digital links can provide in-depth information on any topic. The digital links simply need to be scanned using any digital device including a cell phone that has a camera in it. For the teacher, it would mean that they can keep their pupils more interested in the subject being taught while adding their own professional growth by using modern methods of teaching. Through this digital links, a teacher can get additional materials such as films and videos that would supplement the chapter being taught. Thus, in a science subject, it would show an experiment in action; in geography, the digital links can show videos on the creation of the universe and its state today. The way in which, digital link can be used in textbooks to supplement the written word in textbook is thus efficient.

There is a constant demand and expectation for universities to incorporate increasing levels of technology into the design and delivery of their curriculum (Wong, 2012). Szapkiw, Courduff, Carter and Bennett (2013) studied the influence of university students' learning using electronic versus traditional print textbooks. University students were increasingly choosing e-textbooks for their mobile devices as an alternative to traditional textbooks. Kelly and Bernell (2003) examined the Mississippi elementary and secondary teachers' attitude and perceptions of competency for integrating technology in the classroom. The results revealed that the impact of training on teacher attitude and perceived competency in technology integration varied according to the level of instruction; and there was a significant difference between the attitudes of elementary and secondary teachers' attitude towards integrating technology.

Significance of the Study

This study helps to use the technology in the field of education in effective manner. In the diverse country like India, education is the key factor for the development and this can take place only if maintain the quality at all the levels. Education sets the right direction for development of the country. The pace of technological revolution and emergence of

a knowledge society can change the traditional role of the teacher and the students. Traditionally, the teacher used to be the source of knowledge for the students. There is some cooperation among students to explore new knowledge. In many cases, the teachers do not possess adequate knowledge to supplement the view of the student.

Digital link technology provides a wealth of benefits for the techno-friendly teacher. The students are likely to get the information about their subject. Instead of printing out a long web article to students, it could give them direct and immediate access to the same resource in class or at home. It helps to save our time. Teachers are generally willing to adopt new technologies. They combine speed, ease and novelty with the capacity to hold a large amount of data. They can actually do a lot to enrich the lessons. They use the digital link for better and effective teaching.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the level of attitude of primary school teachers towards using digital links in the textbooks;
2. To find out the significant difference, if any, in the attitude of the primary school teachers towards using digital links in the textbooks with regard to personal variables namely gender, locality and marital status; and
3. To find out the significant difference, if any, in the attitude of the primary school teachers towards using digital links in the textbooks with regard to institutional variables namely medium and locality of the school.

3. HYPOTHESES

1. There is no significant difference between male and female primary school teachers in their attitude towards using digital links in the textbooks.
2. There is no significant difference between urban and rural primary school teachers in their attitude towards using digital links in the textbooks.
3. There is no significant difference between married and unmarried primary school teachers in their attitude towards using digital links in the textbooks.
4. There is no significant difference between Tamil medium and English medium primary school teachers in their attitude towards using digital links in the textbooks.
5. There is no significant difference between urban and rural school primary teachers in their attitude towards using digital links in the textbooks.

4. METHOD OF THE STUDY

The survey method was employed for this study.

Population and Sample

The population for the present study was the primary school teachers from Tirunelveli district. A sample of 300 primary school teachers from various schools in Tirunelveli was derived by simple random sampling technique.

Tools used

To study the attitude of primary school teachers towards using digital links in the textbooks, a tool was developed by the authors (2019) namely, "ViWi's scale on Attitude towards Hyperlink" (VATH). There were 65 items in the preliminary draft under four dimensions such as Teacher related, Students related, Content related and Technology related in a five point Likert Scale. Each statement has the options namely, strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree and strongly disagree. After the content validity and item validity, the numbers of statements were reduced to 45.

Statistics used

The percentage analysis, t-test for independent means and large group were used to analyse the data.

5. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

Table 1: Level of Attitude of Primary Teachers towards using Digital Links in the Textbooks

Level of Attitude towards using Digital Links					
Low		Moderate		High	
N	%	N	%	N	%
174	58	80	26.7	46	15.3

The above table indicates that more than half of the primary school teachers (58%) have low level of attitude towards using digital links in the textbooks.

Table 2: Significance of Difference in Attitude towards using Digital Links in the Textbooks with regard to personal variables

Personal Variable		N	Mean	SD	t- value	p- value
Gender	Male	100	47.52	14.896	0.065	0.949 ^{NS}
	Female	200	47.41	11.724		
Locality of the Teacher	Rural	217	47.05	11.821	0.772	0.442 ^{NS}
	Urban	83	48.48	15.227		
Marital Status	Married	272	47.45	12.279	0.017	0.986 ^{NS}
	Unmarried	28	47.39	17.704		

NS- Not Significant

The above table shows that there is no significant difference in attitude of the primary school teachers towards using digital links in the textbooks with regard to personal variables namely gender, locality and marital status.

Table 3: Significance of Difference in Attitude towards using Digital Links in the Textbooks with regard to institutional variables

Institutional variable		N	Mean	SD	t- value	p- value
Medium of the school	Tamil	255	47.15	12.462	0.845	0.402 ^{NS}
	English	45	49.13	14.864		
Locality of the school	Rural	235	47.37	11.951	0.158	0.875 ^{NS}
	Urban	65	47.71	15.759		

NS- Not Significant

The above table shows that there is no significant difference in attitude of primary school teachers towards using digital links in the textbooks with regard to institutional variables namely medium and locality of the school.

6. FINDINGS

This study examined especially for finding the primary school teacher's attitude towards using digital links in textbooks with regard to personal variables and institutional variables. In this study,

1. There were 15.3% of the primary school teachers who had high level of attitude towards using digital links in the textbooks.
2. More than one-fourth of the primary school teachers (26.7%) had moderate level of attitude towards using digital links in the textbooks.
3. About three-fifth of the primary school teachers (58%) had low level of attitude towards using digital links in the textbooks.
4. There was no significant difference in the attitude of primary school teachers towards using digital links in the textbooks with regard to the personal variables namely gender, locality and marital status.
5. There was no significant difference in the attitude of primary school teachers towards using digital links in the textbooks with regard to the institutional variables namely medium and locality of the school.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

As per this study, majority of the teachers had low level of attitude towards using digital links, because most of the primary teachers are not abiding them with technology era. The school education department has to take necessary actions to improve the teachers' attitude towards technology.

One of the interesting finding in this study is that the teachers' gender, locality, marital status, medium and locality of the school were not affecting the attitude of primary school teachers towards usage of digital links in the textbooks. It shows that all the primary school teachers irrespective of their personal and institutional variables have the same attitude towards using digital links. So the school education department may have to provide in-service programmes or orientation programmes and support system for the primary school teachers to enhance their favourable attitude towards using digital links.

Teachers must realise the importance of the technology and they have to realise that it gives more benefit for them and hence to students. So they have to adapt themselves for using the digital links for the betterment of students.

There must be sufficient time allotted in the curriculum transaction for providing hands on experience to use technology.

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