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1.0.Introduction

Higher education has been one of the significant changes in a person's life. In today's world, students have become more conscious and reflective about their learning and the choice of institution. Therefore, for an institution it has become important to remain up-to-date, advance, and cooperative with the students. Students need to be involved with the teaching and learning process because they are the ones who require the maximum learning and personal reflection. This report summarizes the elements necessary for preparation for higher education, the main themes of becoming a digital learner and a personal reflection depicting the transition from high school to higher education and becoming a digital learner.

2.0.Summary: Preparing for Higher Education

Higher education has been a big transition in a student's life. The shift from high school to higher education has demanded a lot of mental, cultural, and physical preparation (Murtagh, 2012). Students have often stumbled upon the higher institutions for which they were not prepared for. Higher education demands more time and energy as compared to secondary education. Further, the guidelines received from the higher institutions are vague and incomprehensible that makes the preparation for the higher education harder (Murtagh, 2012). The guidelines that are provided usually reflect the traditional environment and does not focus on today's digital environment. According to Cole (2001), a student has to be given an idea about the content and process. The content includes the set of instructions a student needs to know. The process has two features. First, it describes the method of teaching that includes lecture, class materials, discussions, group assignments, and many more that are either provided online or in a face-to-face class. Second, the social and cultural aspects of the learning environment that helps in developing a safe and mentally healthy environment for the students to learn. Therefore, the technological era has demanded a more dynamic learning system where students can be more involved in the teaching and learning process. While preparing the class materials and lectures for the students, the advancing era has required the higher institutions to be up to date and open to the new possibilities and advancements in the technologies. To prepare the learners, the institutions have to adapt to technological gadgets. To keep the institutions and learners prepared, the internet has been the hub of updated information (Ahmad, 2015). The learners can be prepared by teaching

them the use of the internet and differentiating the authenticity of the technology. This will further enhance the leadership qualities of the students. The students should be informed about the leadership incorporation in the educational system. This system integrates the conceptual, strategic, and operational curricula that enhances the quality of the programs and interests of the students (Gigliotti and Ruben, 2017). Hence, the inclusion of technology, leadership, and content would help the students prepare for the education in a better manner because it will keep the students updated, dynamic, and open-minded.

3.0.Mind map on Becoming a digital learner

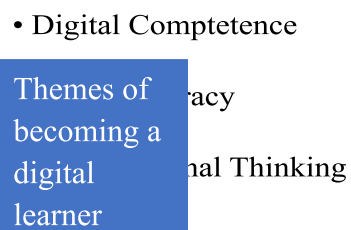


Figure 1 Mind map (Self-made)

3.1.Digital Competence

Digital competence is defined to be the critical and creative use of digital information at our own dispense for goals related to employment and society (Butler and Leahy, 2020). The digital technologies are used for information, communication, and problem-solving related works. The digital competence includes the elements of "communication and collaboration, digital content creation, safety and problem solving" (Çebi and Reisoğlu, 2020). To be digitally competent, a person should be able to collaborate, have problem solving skills and create content.

The digital competence learning trains me by improving my teamwork and problem solving skills. I try to use different methods to solve a problem that has enhanced my creative skills as well.

3.2.Digital Literacy

Literacy is defined to be the ability to comprehend and critically ponder upon the written text. The digital literacy infers a broader perspective of abilities that is not limited by traditional pieces of writings but also includes the digital media (Butler and Leahy, 2020). Digital literacy has expanded the opportunities of learning. It is characterized by three models. For instance, the functional model that depicts the practical skills, the socio-cultural practice that gives literacy a cultural and social connotation, and the intellectual empowerment that transforms cognitive skills(Martin and Grudziecki, 2006). These three models have made digital literacy the modern literacy that leaves the door open for many possibilities.

Digital literacy has helped me to believe in thinking about different subjects through different lenses. The social and cultural aspect of the digital literacy has given me a platform where I can think without being biased and it makes me uncertain about the answers. This opens my mind towards different answers and options.

3.3.Computational thinking

Computational thinking can be described as the "process of formulating and solving problems by fundamental concepts of computer science" (Butler and Leahy, 2020). Computational thinking has made problem solving easier and time savior. The main component of computational thinking includes the applied computing that leads to education, social and professional topics. It also includes the technology policy(Wing, 2006). Computational thinking has impacted on the

educational, social and professional aspects of life. Now, computational thinking has become an integral part of life.

Similarly, computational thinking has made my academic life easier. Digital learning has saved my time by solving problems within seconds. Computational thinking needs practice to be comfortable with the technology and digital world.

4.0.Borton's reflective tool

Borton's reflective tool represents three components of reflection such as what, so what, and now what (Kean, 1972). The reflective components intend on explaining what the task was, what were the effects and how they can be implemented or applied in real life. The reflective tool of Borton evaluates the topic in depth and represents the reasons for things happening in certain ways (Skinner and Mitchell, 2016). First, the experience will be explained thoroughly then the reasons will be presented for the way it happened and how that experience can lead to future learning.

When I first came to university, I felt at ease because each task and learning outcomes were explained thoroughly and explicitly. I understood what was expected of me as a learner and what has to be done. However, the tricky part was to find the right ways to finish the tasks. I was excited to start university and I thought I would be able to manage all the tasks in time. Little did I know that tasks from different courses will require different approaches. I understood the lectures, but I didn't quite understand the methods that would fit with each professor's demands. For example, for a certain course I had to rely more on the knowledge I was given rather than giving opinions. On the other hand, for another course, I had to be more critical and reflective as compared to the other courses. Further, the learning materials were comprehensible, but the academic integrity and citations were draining my energy. I used to get anxious about plagiarism and if I have correctly cited each and every reference I was using. Also, from reading physical books to searching online resources, I felt online resources are better. Because they can be easily carried and accessed through the internet. . Also, I had problems with proper citations and inferencing from materials. Nevertheless, slowly I managed to use different approaches and got used to references and citations. Now, I feel like I am more open towards different learning

methods that can be used to aid in my learning. Hence, I learned a lot from my initial days and now I have become more careful about the citations, critical about the tasks I undertake, and flexible towards every learning approach.

5.0.Conclusion

To conclude, the learning has changed over the past years. Shifting from the traditional way of learning to the digital way of learning has required a lot of preparation. The shift is especially observed when students go to a higher institution. The student requires a clear set of instruction and an understanding of the process and approaches used in teaching. The student needs training about the technology and being a digital learner because nowadays higher institutions depend upon the digital leverages. An individual needs to be comfortable with the main elements of digital learning so that one can use the technology without any hindrances. This way the student will become digitally competent, literate, and cognitive.

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