E-Pustakalaya – A Digital Library

Integrating Digital Materials to Enhance Classroom Teaching-Learning

Use of ICT in Rural Nepal: National Conference on Technology Influence
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OLE NEPAL
Content

- Technology in Education
- Introduction to E-Pustakalaya
- E-Pustakalaya structure
- Benefits and Challenges
- Future Plans
- Demo
Technology and Education

- A perfect match?
  - Information $\rightarrow$ Knowledge
  - Communication network $\rightarrow$ Access
  - Connectivity $\rightarrow$ Collaboration

- Mixed results
  - No clear proof of improved learning
  - Test scores do not always improve
  - Emphasis on digital skills at the expense of math, reading and writing fundamentals
Key Points to Success

- Technology presents limitless possibilities
  - Sophisticated solutions
  - Easy to get carried away
- Need to keep it SIMPLE
- Focus on EDUCATION, with technology as enabler
  - Stick to the basics of learning
- Understand the CONTEXT
- Set a GOAL and stick to it
- Be realistic about RESOURCES
  - Both human and technology
Use of Technology in Education

- School management and administration
- Monitoring and support
- Teacher professional development and capacity building
- Classroom teaching and learning
Why Technology in Education?

- Interactive learning platform with multimedia
- Personalized approach
- Availability of wide range of learning materials
- Engage, Explore, Experiment, Express
- Creative thinking
- Learner-centered tools
- Ease of localization
- Fun and effective
- Growing affordability and accessibility
OLE Nepal's Model

Digital Content

Teacher Training

Successful ICT in Education Program

Technology & Network Infrastructure

Local Capacity & Community Support
E-Pustakalaya

- Education-centered digital library
- Contains
  - Books
  - Audio books
  - Educational videos
  - Learning software
  - School Wikipedia
  - Dictionary
  - Maps & Atlases
- Materials under creative commons licensing
- Supported by Nepal Library Foundation
E-Pustakalaya structure

- Simple and easy interface
- Seven categories
  - Literature
  - Arts
  - Course materials
  - Reference materials
  - Other educational materials
  - Teaching materials
  - Newspaper and magazines
- Browse, Search, Link facilities
- Can read and/or download books, watch videos, play educational games, etc for free
Goals of E-Pustakalaya

• Promote reading culture in Nepal
  • By increasing access to books and other learning materials through the use of technology
• Encourage students to carry out independent research and inquiry
• Provide the tools necessary for students to explore and learn
• Make teaching-learning fun and effective through the use of materials outside of prescribed textbooks
• Provide service to the surrounding communities through information on health, agriculture, climate
Benefits of E-Pustakalaya

• Provides easy access to thousands of books and learning materials
  • And cheaper too!
• No limit on the number of users who can read the same book
• Can access on the Internet or can be installed locally in schools and community libraries in low-cost low-power servers
• Requires low maintenance
Current Status - Content

- Over 3000 books and other learning materials
- Partnership with various authors, publishers and organizations
  - Room to Read, Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya, Nepalese Society for Children's Literature (NESCHIL), World Education, Rato Bangla Kitab, British Council, E-Learning for Kids
- 450 E-Paath learning activities
  - Curriculum-based learning software for grades two to six English, Nepali, math and science subjects
  - Prepared by OLE Nepal and Dept of Education
Current Status – Content

- British Council's Learn English Kids
- E-Learning for Kids
- Khan Academy videos
- Nepal Academy's Brihat Nepali Sabdakosh
- MPP's Nepali dictionary
Current Status - Reach

Open Learning Exchange Nepal Coverage Map

Districts covered by OLE Nepal:
- OLPC project
- OLPC Shared Model Implementations
- E-Library Projects
What Users are saying

• Four Local Heroes.
  • Mr. Gokul Prasad Aryal
    – Laxmi Ni Ma Vi, Makwanpur
  • Mr. Laxmi Kanta Mishra
    – Siddha Beni Ni Ma Vi, Tanahun
  • Ms. Sangyani Thapa
    – Navin Pra Vi, Kavre
  • Ms. Sujata Regmi
    – Pancha Ni Ma Vi, Kapilvastu

• Many others out there
  • Who are utilizing the materials
Challenges

- Mostly non-technical
- Acquiring content
- Organizing content
- Motivating teachers
  - We are asking a lot from schools and teachers
  - Not only shift in mode of teaching-learning but a paradigm shift
Future Plan for E-Pustakalaya

• Content
  • Increase collection
  • Identify and include relevant content that are in demand
  • Create content where needed
  • Generate local content

• Expand Reach
  • Include in ICT plan
  • Partnerships
Future Plans for E-Pustakalaya

• Integrate in classroom teaching
  • Teacher training
  • Prepare teacher guides
  • Promote reading culture
  • School and community-based approaches
  • Offer as integral part of national ICT-based education initiative
Demo

E-Pustakalaya
E-Paath

Lessons based on E-Pustakalaya