The ‘Power’ of e-learning tools for assessment: Teacher Student Perspective

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Introduction

- The strategic use of assessment as an extrinsic motivator for learning is closely linked with assessment for summative purposes; any assessment forms part of formative-summative continuum (Brown & Glasner, 1999)
- At the formative end of continuum, assessment, assessment is regular and provides advice and guidance on progress
- ‘Assessment is one of the most powerful drivers of innovation and change in education, as it defines the goals for both learners and teachers.” (DFES, 2003, P.2)
Contd...

- ‘Formative Computer based assessment can produce improvement in students learning outcome and this can lead to positive attitudes to learning.’ (Peat & Franklin, 2002, p.516)

- This can avoid backwash and let students concentrate on higher level of learning – synthesis and analysis (Blooms Taxonomy)
Assessment is recognized as the most influential factor related to how students learn (Brown & Glasner, 1999), directly linked to effective teaching. Successful learners most often rely on assessment deadlines and activities to both pace and direct their learning efforts.

Effective teachers use assessment activities strategically to motivate learners to engage successfully in productive learning activities (2003, P. 95).
Advantages of e-assessment

- Exploits interactive technologies to improve learning and assessment systems
- Improved learning experience
- Potential to transform the way we teach and assess
- Widen participants and faculties life long learning
- Enhance the quality and supplement learning and assessment
Objectives

- To understand teachers' perspective about e learning and assessment issues for design subjects
- To understand students' perspective about e learning and assessment issues for design subjects
Research Design

- 15 design faculty members were interviewed through open end questionnaire
- 30 design students were interviewed through open end questionnaire
- Judgmental sampling
- Qualitative analysis
Why to use e assessment

- Students are tech savvy
- Attention span of students is low
- Global connectivity
- Learning and assessment today is considered as an experience rather than score driven exercise
- Diversion of mind because of net, facebook, mobile phones - 24 hours connectivity with peers, parents, teachers
- Gives students advantage to access lectures any where and get feedback
- Gives access to share feedback of other students as well
E-learning and assessment for design subjects - Teacher perspective

- Useful tool for formative assessment
- Difficult to use it as summative assessment tool
- Physical exercises difficult to execute
- Design requires one to one interaction
- Possible to do a quantitative but qualitative learning and assessment will be difficult
- Can be applied in a limited manner
Teacher’s Perspective

- Design is intuitive in nature
- Traditionally design subjects are taught by mentoring approach
- Personality important
- Design subjects are demonstrative by nature
- Design is tactile
- Design is about self expression
- Individualistic but a group activity
- Perspective driven
Issues

- Inherent problem with the nature of the subject
- Most design subjects require usage of hand skills and tools which can be best expressed on paper rather than computer
- Need to have a proper interface
- Design learning is experiential
- Design interpretation of everyone is different
- There are no right or wrong answers or solutions
- ‘Learning by mistake’ may not be possible
Contd...

- Issues of plagiarism difficult to catch in design
- Copying from other students
- Difficult to gauge individuality of students
- Difficult to upload how many creative exercises
- Technology driven, sometimes compatibility may be a problem
Success of e assessment

- Parity in feedback - across centre's / across sections / across students
- Parity in inputs and understanding level of students
- Co relation can be better
- Hybrid and blended learning can be tested
What is possible

- Conceptual notes/ideas can be uploaded
- Discussion of concepts possible with the mentor
- Interaction with peers possible
- Exchange of design ideas
- When students number is high easier to monitor
- Flexibility to both mentor and mentee
- Referencing possible
- Archiving history can be effective
Strengths of e learning and assessment

- Basic elements of design can be experienced
- Typography is possible
- Reduce hand skills
- Will reduce workload
- Powerful tool for critique
- Experiencing and sharing work of others
- Give solution to other students
- Good influence of others work
Limitations of e learning and assessment

- High skills required by the teacher
- Fundamentals can be taught
- Sensitivity to color can be learnt only be the five senses
- Tactile feel of materials will be missing
- Creativity comes out of the dexterity of the brain
Student Perspective

- Design is illustrative
- Design process needs personal interaction
- Doubts can be better cleared face to face
- Can see and share work of other students
- Can have limited explorations
- External motivation of environment and students will be missing
Students perspective

- Work can get corrupted
- Work can get deleted
- Distractions
- Lack of concentration
Contd...

- Sharing of ideas cannot be done
- Streamlining of work without teacher guidance can be an issue
- Experience more important in design
- No lab experience
Contd....

• Can reach professionals online
• Get a feedback from peers/ professionals any where in the world
• Work can be archived and saved
• Personal loss of work can be avoided
• Easy access
Conclusion

- Design is not sacrosanct
- No benchmark to say what is right or wrong
- Discretion and explanation related to the person
- Not calculative and driven by emotions
Contd...

- Speechless and boundary less
- Each person applies and explores differently
- Process and journey of understanding design more important
- Experience of nature missing
Contd...

- Powerful tool but may have limited application
- Changing world, appropriate tools may be required
- Move out of comfort zone
- Appropriate tools to monitor the progress and assessment of students
- Manipulations possible
- Problematic and sensitive cases can be dealt more effectively
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Thank You !!
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