The Internet = Revolutionize Schooling

Dr. Jyoti Tandukar | 8 June, 2009

For quite a while I have been thinking that our educational system needs to be **transformed**. In the current context, it doesn't seem to be suitable in many ways. Rather than focusing on book reading, we should increasingly concentrate on making the students **creative, confident and socially responsible**.

Book knowledge, remembering facts and equations, etc. are becoming less and less significant, as internet is becoming omnipresent, and the more information and powerful search algorithms are being developed every day. Before 90's, we needed to have books, notes, or remember things. Now we just need to learn **how to search**. Therefore, 50% of what we teach at Nepalese schools can be replaced by teaching how to search the Internet for the information you need.

A picture is worth a thousand words. This has been said, heard and realized again and again. And these days, the internet is full of pictures, animations, and movies that have **great educational values**. This means that the classroom teaching can be made **extremely interesting** as well as **much more effective** just by using such media instead of the old boring book based teaching.

With open source movement, there are many programs and even their source code that are freely available. These are not only useful as applications for our everyday use, but equally qualify as teaching and learning materials, which can be adapted as it is or be modified according to the requirement.

And because Information Technology and Communication is **converging** into one single handheld device, we are heading towards an **unimaginable technological future** in the next ten years. The cell phone will be much more powerful and feature rich by then, and its world-wide use is going to be tremendously increased. So, majority of the urban population, including the students, are going to be **connected all the time**. Hence, the schools that want to impart modern education may not even need to invest in any infrastructure. They just need **soft resources**: brain and digital materials, and a skillful management team.

For those who are wondering whether such a tiny device like a cell phone will be of any use for information retrieval, viewing, and working, because of its limited display area, limited storage and lack of keyboard in many cases: inventions like the pico/LED/laser projector, flexible display, stronger voice recognition system, gesture based computer control, etc. are going to **transform** the way we **interact with computer** (a computer at that time won't mean what we see today). Most probably, a large display and full size keyboard will be built-in the tiny mobile itself, or at least they will be in such a form, which can be carried in your pocket and opened and connected to the cell phone instantly. A significant break-through in voice recognition and gesture control may even **make typing irrelevant** by that time.

Tomorrow's Internet is going to be much **more secure** and spam free than today: not because of the advanced firewalls and filters, but because each device will have their **dedicated IP**. The IP of the devices that you are going to use do become a part of your ID, hence any unsolicited or illegal activity you do online can be traced back to you. Moreover, once you are online, your exact location can also be tracked, leaving you with no place to hide!!

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