Advantage of Using Web 2.0 Applications in Class

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ABSTRACT

In this study the advantage of using Web 2.0 applications in terms of increasing student attention and enthusiasm will be emphasized by presenting the example of community service activities which were supported by the blog usage.

Categories and Subject Descriptors

K.3.1 [**Computers and Education**]: Computer Uses in Education – *Computer-assisted instruction (CAI).*

General Terms

Performance, Measurement.

Keywords

Computer-assisted instruction, Web 2.0 applications, student enthusiasm, instructional technology, self-confidence, blog usage.

1. INTRODUCTION

This study is prepared by two undergraduate students of Computer and Instructional Technology Teacher Education Department to highlight the effectiveness of Web 2.0 applications in class environment.

1.1 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to present a perspective about the usage of Web 2.0 applications, particularly blog usage, by illustrating community service activities which has done in 2009-2010 Fall Semester at Bilkent University.

The aim of this study is to show how Web 2.0 applications are effective and helpful for the student enthusiasm to the lesson as well as highlighting the importance of increasing computer usage among the students at K-12 level, especially who do not have much opportunity to use computer.

1.2 Problem Statement

The purpose of the community service activities was to help children at K-12 level of schooling in their lessons as well as making them familiar to use computers by giving lessons in computer laboratories at Bilkent University at weekends. Since these children did not have much opportunity to use computers in their daily lives, they were quite eager to use computers instead of listening to the lesson.

The main problem was not giving the permission of using computer during the lesson or not but it was actually about

making those students use the computers while they are participating and learning the lessons which are necessary for their education.

As a result, during the half of the community service a blog was being used at class, and the effectiveness of using blog as a Web 2.0 application for class activities was observed.

1.3 Significance of the Study

At the beginning of the community service activities, traditional schooling was going on, and even if the students listen to the lesson they were waiting the break times so that they could use computers as much as they can. To make the students more active and willing to participate to the lessons, the lesson outcomes and computer was linked by generating a blog which has some activities parallel to the lesson objectives. The main advantage of using such a blog was that the students were not aware that they were having activities related to the lesson but they supposed that they were having some games in the blog.

Those students were complaining that they were weak at English lesson and they thought they could not use English; however, they were quite good in the blog activities which were done during the class time, which was encouraging for them.

In brief, it is quite significant to highlight the importance of the use of Web 2.0 applications such as a blog, since it makes a big difference on the learning process of the students, their enthusiasm and self-confidence in a quite positive way. Also, they improved their ICT skills by being more familiar to the use of computers during the weekends they came to Bilkent University.

2. METHODOLOGY

The study conducted at Bilkent University and the participants were a group of students from Misak-ı Milli School at 6th grade. There were 12 students, and every weekend they were coming to Bilkent University to get help for their lessons. The blog which was used as the instrument provided students an environment that they could actively participate to the lessons, have voice, use creativity and have fun as well as learning. The blog activities were performed in class, and they were supported by visuals, colors and concepts which were appropriate for their age and lesson objectives.

3. CONCLUSION

The usage of Web 2.0 applications is quite an effective way to increase both the enthusiasm and ICT skills of the students.

We hope that the findings of the study will be helpful for both instructors and students.