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## Overview of the Ethical Issues in Educational Technology

**Er.Prabhsharan Kaur & Er.Isha Sharma**

Chandigarh University, Gharuan

**Abstract:** The purpose of this research paper is to discuss about the ethical issues related to education with respect to students and teachers. New developments regarding the way of transferring of knowledge by the instructor to the student have been made with recent growth of internet which provides a lot of new opportunities for teaching learning process. This has a effect of constant change in teaching learning process. These effects of technology are beneficial but complex and hard to estimate accurately as these effects are likely to have different values at different times for different people.

**Keywords—** Ethics, Educational technology, issues.

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Oxford Dictionary says that, “Ethical means fair, equitable and dealing with people that, although pragmatically flexible according to the situation and times, conforms to self-imposed high standards of public conduct. Once practically interchangeable with 'moral,' this term has acquired quasi-legal connotations and has moved closer to 'legitimate' following the recent (second half of the 20th century) schism between private morality and public morality and ethical issue is the problem or situation that requires a person or organization to choose between alternatives that must be evaluated as right (ethical) or wrong (unethical).” [1]

Education technology is very well defined by AECT “Education technology is the study and ethical practice of facilitating learning and improving performance by creating, using, and managing appropriate technological processes and resources.”[2]

Historical references from the past have debris that shows the consequences the technology advancements brought. Even in today’s era of rapidly changing technology we have to deal with careless implementation of technology .The requirement for today’s’ scenario is to make informed ethical decisions and to be proactive in assessment. This responsibility lies on shoulder on instructors who are imparting quality knowledge to the students. [3]

Technologies like cellular phones and emails are paper less electronic systems that are used in education, business and industry sector now days. These electronic educational systems are of low cost and are of high efficiency if used appropriately. As the improper use of an emerging communication technology could create an ethical issue.

Havice & Hill [3] said that Educational Technology encompasses Ethical Elements that helps students to develop ethical decisions making skills. The strategies for imparting ethical decision making skills should be part of curriculum and

introduced to the students with engineering, sciences, mathematics and technology content.

According to Kidder [4] there are eight vital values i.e. unity, love, responsibility, freedom, truthfulness, tolerance, fairness and respect for life that forms the basis for a moral code of ethics.

Harvey and Airitam [5] concluded that use of ethics brought different challenges. The guidelines we use in separating well from bad and right from wrong are what form the essence of our individual characters.

Developments in technology have social, economical, interpersonal and educational affects on our life. Educational Technology serves as a good educational resource that does not restricts imparting knowledge in a known geographical area for example, distance learning allows educational institutes to increase their marketplace as well as reduce monetary demands on student. However there are some drawbacks of educational technology too. Usage of technology divides world among rich and poor, undeveloped and developed countries and urban and rural. [14]

Still internet technology in education is fairly new and emerging field. Educators can take more advantage of these innovations than before by incorporating them into their educational practices and to adapt to changes taking place in society.

### II. ETHICAL ISSUES

Now we will discuss the important ethical issues in Educational Technology

#### Copyright

Copyright is an important issue. Despite of laws for protecting copyright, the illegal access is ongoing. Even in educational technology there is a fragmentary dispute going on about who is the real owner of online material used in education. For the maximum time the data sources for education are online which are used without adding references that creates copyright issue.

A “doctrine in copyright law allows limited use of copyrighted material without requiring permission from the rights-holder. It provides for the legal incorporation of copyrighted material into another work under limited conditions”. [11]

#### Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as wrongful representation of another authors’ information representing as your own original work.

It is not a crime but is treated as an academic fraud researchers made. There are many plagiarism detection software that helps in finding out duplicate content.

There is one site is called as turnitin.com. Such sites keeps a large database of websites as well as online papers so that one can check student papers learning management systems against the materials in the database to ensure that the work is not plagiarized which is very fast and easy to use.

According to Reality and Solution of College Plagiarism [13] there are various forms of plagiarisms.

- Someone else work is submitted as ones own work
- No use of citations for previously published work

### Privacy/confidentiality

Today is era of internet. Day by day the usage of internet has increased explosively all because of the fact that connecting to internet is no longer costly .Due to this more personal information is available online. whenever a person goes online, the websites uses cookies to gather information about the user. Every website follow a privacy policy that is of changing nature which any user hardly make a time to read out. As per privacy and confidentiality issue one cannot pass private information to others. Online transactions that allow the data of person to be available online are a major requirement nowadays. These transactions are additional risk to person's privacy. There are two main privacy acts protect students from those problems which are:

- Children's Online Privacy Protection Act
- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act [8]

### Netiquette

Internet is the main tool for communication nowadays. The chat room service of internet provides easy way to find friends and to communicate with them but while posting messages little care or no care is made about the netiquettes. We keep on posting messages and pictures which have offensive content. Access of internet does not give right to send offensive picture or content online .Students should be educated about netiquettes and should be told not to write any offensive matter that they will regret later on.

### Access

Internet is public network. Anyone can post anything on internet. There is also no check about what to access on internet. This access issue is major ethical concerns nowadays where there is a scenario that there are so many inappropriate places students can access. Some prevention acts are much needed that control minors from accessing certain material on cyber net. A need for the use of filtering software is there. The essence of such filtering software is there that not only create a secure environment in which children interact online but also enable parents/teachers to block or restrict access to content online.

### Vandalism

This issue deals with protecting the infrastructure like computers and its computing tools. Everyone who access technology have the responsibility of protecting the technological instruments. Teachers should also teach the students about the careful use of these facilities, equipment and resources.

### Accuracy/Trust worthiness

Internet is online public network in which anyone can make the information available to others .Internet is not a sole property of few it belongs to all. This makes the information available online to account for accuracy and trust worthiness. There is no restriction on who will be posting information and no accuracy monitoring agency is deputed for the same. Teachers should inform their students about the situation to protect them from citing or reading incorrect information. Inaccurate information can cause confusion in society, and even medical and legal issues.

## III. DISCUSSIONS & GUIDELINES

Teachers are important elements in the education system. They are the role models of students.

A responsible teacher in today's modern scenario should bear the additional responsibility of imparting ethical education in parallel with the subject knowledge. [15] For this to be done they too need to be aware of ethical responsibilities.

Students should be taught the possible damage of not following the ethical rules while using internet technology. Teachers should guide them the proper use of the internet with the help of following questions that they can ask themselves:

- Is it legal or illegal to go for the Information?
- Are codes of ethics violated?
- Access to certain information will result in harm to the owner?

The responsibility of teachers should be to:

- Teach students not to use or pass personal information to others.
- Inform students how they can benefit from respecting the privacy of others because someday their own information may be at stake.
- Remind students not to take others' work directly or copy others' work from the internet as their own, for example, downloading illegal software, music, and movies.
- Remind students to be respectful to others when communicating on the internet, not using offensive words and pictures.
- Help students to develop positive attitudes toward technology.

A teacher helps students in learning how to use technology properly. According to the International Society for Technology

in Education, teachers should follow following performance indicators:

- Model and teach legal and ethical practices related to technology use.
- Apply technology resources to enable and empower learners with diverse backgrounds, characteristics, and abilities.
- Identify and use technology resources that affirm diversity.
- Promote safe and healthy use of technology resources.

Proper training in technology integrating with ethical issues is required. For this to happen, educational institutes should make provision for conducting workshops for teachers and students to develop these skills. Educational organisations should have rules and regulations to help students learn how to use the internet in a safe and responsible manner. For example, filtering is important for school and home computers. Teachers and parents should work together and discuss what kinds of restrictions are more efficient for students. Education should help students learn how to think critically about technology issues.

In classroom teaching, the teacher should act both as facilitator and mentor.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Technology plays an important role in education. The Internet and technology on one side provide access to useful educational data to the student and on other side suffers from various ethical issues. From the educational point of view, instructors should know how to use technology in ethical way. Teachers should have intelligence to look insight for how effectively to use technology including its alternatives, benefits, risks, and limitations. The aim is to develop students' critical thinking and analysis skills. Technology already plays an important role in K-12 education, and it will play an increasingly important role in the future. Our responsibility is to prepare students for this reality. The form of schooling is changing because of all the technology being infused into education. Technology development also facilitates more individualized instruction for each student. From the educational perspective, teachers need to know how to use technology as a tool because although many students use computers at home, they generally do not know how to use them as tools for learning. Teachers should have enough background to decide which technologies to use, and how to use them. Part of being prepared for that responsibility requires knowing how technology works, including its alternatives, benefits, risks, and limitations. The paper provides an impact the technology is having over the education as well as what kind of ethical issues can be there. The paper provides some guidelines that must be followed to avoid them.

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