Educational UI, Technology And Pedagogy For Kindergarten Children In Saudi Arabia

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ABSTRACT

Educational technology has revolutionized the traditional forms of classroom teaching and learning. Past few years have witnessed the emergence of the educational User Interface (UI) in the form of tablets, whiteboards, mobile and handheld devices for enhancing the classroom learning and instruction. Interaction design plays a pivotal role in improving the educational UI through a step-by-step approach. This process involves understanding needs and expectations of students, examining the fundamental theories governing potential implementations and performing design and evaluation. In the earlier research, it has been seen that different age groups have different needs when it comes to interacting with interactive systems. Educational systems should be made more interactive and they should be tailored to the needs of different age groups of children.

Existing literature on educational UI, technology and pedagogy has revealed that its present research agenda is overly dominated by studies conducted in developed world. This has resulted in the poor understanding on educational technology need of Arabic speaking students for example. Therefore, keeping in mind the urgent nature of this subject, we are interested in two themes – 1) relationship between educational technology and pedagogy in non-western contexts; i.e., Kindergarten schools in Saudi Arabia 2) Understanding the design, use and evaluation of educational technology for kindergarten school children in Saudi Arabia 3) Design challenges and opportunities in educational UI, technology and pedagogy in non-western context. To achieve these research objectives, we aim to complete following missions namely a) review of the published work in CCI, educational technology and educational research forums b) organize questionnaire surveys, interviews and focus discussions along with young children and teachers in kindergarten c) publishing the insights in reputed journals and conference papers.

This focus of this research project is to understand the role of educational technology in both in school and non-school context. The final publications through this research project will serve as a guiding source for academic and industrial world that are interested in developed educational technology for Arabic speaking students particularly in Saudi Arabia. This work will serve as a reference for developing better educational technology for Arabic speaking children in other parts of the world. This research project is very much relevant to the Saudi society and current focus of the Saudi state; i.e., to improve the existing education system, educational technology and pedagogy. The research questions behind this study will be achieved through a multi method research philosophy. In this research, two large-scale questionnaire surveys will be organized, consisting of different kindergarten school children in Saudi Arabia (n = 1000+).

Keywords: Kindergarten School Children; Saudi Arabia; Educational User Interface