

IT specialist highlights impact of technological advancements on learning and teaching

Education providers such as Universities need to consider how technological advancements affect its learning and teaching methods and determine how it will incorporate this into the delivery of quality education.

IT specialist and Head of Strategy, Planning, Architecture and Risk at Melbourne Polytechnic, Devendra Nambiar, highlighted this during a presentation on How Industry 4.0 influences eLearning and Learning through Digital Experiences at the Fiji National University's (FNU) Nasinu Campus.

"eLearning is about delivering learning using digital and beyond digital technologies and methods," Nambiar said.



Devendra Nambiar presents whilst FNU Director ICT Chandr Anuj listens on.

"Pre-digital age, learners' expectation was one-to-many and with the digital technologies available, learners' expectation and perception have moved on to one-to-one experience and ultimately, we will see the rise of one-to-moment expectation."

"All these technologies and methods lead to a more sharing and collaborative learning space."

Nambiar said amongst its many uses, current students used their smartphones to keep in contact and learn and purchase things.

"So 90 percent of their activities are based on a digital element. Traditionally, we have been singular in the way we delivery education."

"The millennials are very different. They expect (digital) products to provide them with learning because their learning is different."

"When you are in a normal teaching situation and there is question time, there will always be introverts and extroverts. There are a couple of people who will ask questions and some who won't. But when you put it on an electronic platform, you find that the introverts will also ask questions."

He added that with the advancement in technology and technological devices,

education providers from primary to higher education institutions needed to determine what sort of skills set would be needed by graduates to cope with the digital landscape.

"We have a situation where according to the World Economic Forum, 65 percent of children entering primary school today will ultimately end up working in jobs that do not exist yet," Nambiar said.

"There are snippets of what those jobs are going to be, but we don't know for sure because the rate of change is very high."

Nambiar said learning aids used in Education 4.0 are augmented and virtual reality teaching, simulation, artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things (IoT).

"Internet of Things is another transformative technology that changes things in small but significant ways, in the sphere of education, one of the most promising trends is 'smart' campuses."

"Uniting all a university's devices into a single network enables a highly customisable learning environment that meets the needs of students and educators while eliminating unnecessary interactions."

He said digital technology enabled students to not only gain academic knowledge but also practice problem-solving skills, critical thinking and technical and creative skills individually and in collaboration with other students.



FNU Vice Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey presents Devendra Nambiar with a token of appreciation.