Efficacious Oral Presentation using ICT tools and Virtual Reality for First-Year Undergraduate Engineering Students

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Abstract

In this modern era, teaching has become a more intricate, challenging, ingenious task for all teachers. Teachers are the ones who mold their students and are raised as responsible citizens for our country. They play many roles such as teacher, facilitator, counselor, career guider, etc. Thus they come across many challenges, hurdles, hindrances to engage students in this technological world. Due to the advent of new technology, it is arduous to engross students inside the classroom. Being with technology has become part of one's life. The paper focuses on an effective oral presentation using Virtual reality and ICT tools. Students were given some activities using gadgets as a tool during this COVID-19 quarantine, where they could make use of this time effectively. Though there were some challenges and implications, the presentation helped them to become a better communicator. Especially, these activities helped introverts to speak better since they present online and there were no stage and much audience. This online presentation is a platform to build a great speaker for the introvert.

Introduction

Presenting a topic in front of the audience is very challenging for most of the students. They do a presentation but not an effective presentation. There is a difference between both. In this ambitious world, one needs to give an effective presentation. It's not only the content but also their body language, tonal variation, facial expression, gestures that mean a lot. Having good presentation skills is important in everyone's life. An effective presentation is not only valuable in one's education but also in one future career. One needs to present their ideas, plans, projects, in front of the audience. Sometimes they present online. It helps students to present effectively and professionally in front of their friends, professors, boss, and other higher authorities.

Students face many problems during their presentation like less knowledge about the topic, lack of preparation, stage fear, lack of body language, physical and mental distractions, etc. Most of the students have problems in facing the audience though they are good in communication skills and studied in English medium schools. This is because of a lack of confidence to face their audience. Finding those introverted and giving training which will be useful for them. Rehearsing in front of the mirror helps students to check their body language, facial expression, gestures, and postures. Rehearsal gives confidence during the presentation.

Doing presentation frequently helps students to improve their communication skills and confidence in their speech. Once the presentation is done students can do a self-assessment at the beginning level. It is important for individual success and knowing how to make a good presentation helps students to get a job, make new friends, to deal with business success. If the presentation is effective, the presenter is good at communicating. The clarity in speech is essential because it avoids miscommunication in one's life which helps to lead a happy life. The presenter should present based on the audience and keep their attention on track.

Speaking relevant to the topic is essential and they should focus on what they want to converse. A good presenter will be a good leader.

Students enhance their presentation skills using Virtual Reality and ICT tools. Virtual Reality means experiencing things in a three-dimensional computer-generated environment where one can be explored and interacted with using special electronic equipment. Several pedagogical theories are supporting the use of interactive media such as virtual reality, including constructivist learning, situated learning, inquiry-based learning, game-based learning, and engagement theory (Chen, 2009; Chen et al., 2019; Rahimi & Pourshahbaz, 2019). The first theory Constructivism considered as an active process of knowledge construction from the experience to construct their understandings when compared to others.

Students immerse and have a different experience in this virtual world as if they are there. In Education, Virtual Reality upturns students' visualization. They just wear the VR headset and goggles to start learning and consequently, they immerse in the virtual environment and that makes students' interest in learning. Starting VR classes with 360-degree videos and images from YouTube 360 makes students' classes lively.

They spend most of the time with their gadgets both inside and outside the classroom. Though we laid down a rule that students should keep their phones silent, teachers often noticing a few students using them. Instead of punishing them let's use it as a learning tool both inside and outside the classroom. This improves students' engagement, learn individually, digital culture, collaboration, liberated and independent learning, etc.

Students feel comfortable when they do their presentations outside their classrooms rather than inside. This does not apply to all the students. Some introverts can take this opportunity and try to enhance their communication skills. There is a difference between when students speak in front of forty students and recording their speech and sending them to their teachers. Initially, students can try sending their presentations using online tools and teachers can also facilitate students to have this kind of activity outside the classroom. When ICT tools are used in teaching, it encourages collaborative and interactive learning among students. Here are some sample activities were given to improve students' presentation during this COVID-19 quarantine.

Activities:

1. Students were asked to listen to a video of TED-ED and TED TALKS. It's a 5-minute and 20-minute video that holds students' attention easily. It is available on any device, which is free and accessible easily. It serves as a platform to improve students' general knowledge, share thought-provoking ideas. They need to observe the way they talk, the body language, accent, posture which play a major role in students' presentation. It is an individual presentation and students need to present it for two minutes of what they listened to, once the video is recorded students need to upload it in Google classroom.

2. Students were shown a picture proverb and they need to guess it. Thirty seconds will be given. The picture will be shared on their screen. Once they guess the picture they need to illustrate with an example for a minute. Again it is an individual presentation and students were asked to join using Google meet ID.

3. Students were asked to give a solution for real-time problems presented over flashcards. It should be presented in a minute and an assessment could be done on how much students could speak in a minute. It's again an individual presentation. The researcher scheduled a meeting in Google meets where the students join in it and screen shared the flashcards.

4. Students were asked to prepare a topic for a group presentation based on Edward de Bono's Six thinking hats. The group has to plan the thinking process in-depth and organized way. This shows how to disentangle students' thinking process into six distinct areas, tackling a problem from different perspectives as a group. Each member divided the subtopic and present it accordingly. The topic will be given before the presentation. The teacher scheduled a zoom meeting and students presented as a group.

5. Students were asked to explore the pervasiveness of ads in their lives and by analyzing what ads are trying to sell and trying to hide. After exploring they need to

present for two minutes about any one of the ads. Students need to speak for the product and try to convince the audience within a minute to buy it. In another minute, they need to speak against the topic so that the audience hesitates to buy the product. The teacher scheduled a Zoom meeting for the students and a maximum of six students join the meeting.

6. Students were asked to introduce any one of their favorite personalities. The person may be whom they inspire the most or well-wisher or leaders or socialists or celebrities etc. They need to speak for five to seven minutes about them and their achievements. They show more interest in this since it's their favorite personality. Video presentations should be done by the students. Meeting would be scheduled in google meet and students need to share their videos with all while presenting.

7. Students were asked to wear a VR headset and they need to watch any of the YouTube 360 degree videos. While watching 360-degree videos, students are fully immersed and they get rid of other distractions easily. They are engaged more in Virtual reality and remember content more intensely. Video review should be done by the students.

Students Feedback:

1. Watching TED TALKS and TED-ED seemed to interest the students and many were new to watch this kind of video. The charismatic lectures educated and entertained them to watch more. The response was remarkable when they were asked to speak what they listened to. However, some students found it difficult to understand their accents and enabled subtitles for their better understanding. Listening skills improve when they watch frequently and acquire vocabulary. Instinctively, students learn to use their body language too.

2. The response was worthy when the picture proverb was given. Simple proverbs were given as pictures where they could speak easily for a minute. Though it was simple, a few could not find the proverb in the picture. To find the answer the teacher gave some clues to guess the proverb. This activity was fun and enlightening since proverbs are wise sayings that give life advice.

3. Students responded well while giving a solution to the problems. They could speak spontaneously. Few students felt they were wanting in communication skills. The teacher also joined with students while responding to the question and also students were excited while doing this activity.

4. When compared to other activities students responded well to this since it was a group presentation. Everyone in the group presented their part. They were excited with different hat colors and their roles and responsibilities. It helped them to think critically and present creatively. Students felt curious and everyone was involved in this group presentation.

5. By doing this presentation, students created awareness among themselves about products. It educated them about the attributes and benefits of new products. They felt that students could improve their creativity when they do this activity frequently and they suggested a few ideas among themselves for their upliftment.

6. Students enjoyed presenting the videos where they uploaded pictures of their personality and created videos for presentation. The slides were well organized and they captured the audience's attention easily. Students felt different learning experiences after their presentation.

7. Virtual Reality technology was new to the students and they enjoyed watching in Virtual reality headset. It made them fully wrapped up and they felt that they were in another world while watching 360-degree videos with the headset. They were happy and glad while reviewing it since the technology was new to them.

Challenges faced:

1. Lack of knowledge in using technology for a few students. However, this could be overcome when they use it frequently.
2. Some pictures were not clear during the picture presentation but students were able to present them.
3. The live presentation was interrupted due to technical and network issues in some activities.
4. Few students were absent during the presentation and very few participated in the last activity since they didn't have a virtual reality headset.
5. More effective when students are less in number.
6. Few students failed to manage their time.

Computers, Ipad, Digital phones, and Virtual Reality headsets work well for the teaching and learning process and effective among students and teachers. There are so many applications and software to enhance our skills which everyone makes use of that. For the changing and challenging world, teachers should be trained and updated their technical knowledge to cope up with students. However, the methods of teaching and materials should also be updated in one's teaching and learning process.

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