

Unit 10: Education Technology

AIM

The aim of this unit is to enable the inspectors to understand and appreciate the role of educational technology, together with its relevance, sources, costs, operations and maintenance.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this unit inspectors will be able to:

- define 'educational technology'
- describe the role of educational technology
- identify relevant technology in education
- identify sources and finance of educational technology
- explore operations and maintenance procedures

CONTENT SUMMARY

- 10.1 Educational Technology
- 10.2 Roles of Educational Technology
- 10.3 Identification of Educational Technology
- 10.4 Sources and Finance
- 10.5 Operation and Maintenance

10.1 EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Activity 10a

- (a) In groups define 'educational technology'.
- (b) Try to reach a consensus amongst the groups on the most acceptable definition of the term educational technology.

Key Information

The definition of educational technology should include:

- process of teaching by machines
- any teaching supported by technical teaching aids e.g. audio-visual materials, projectors and recording equipment.

10.2 ROLES OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Activity 10b

- (a) In groups describe the roles of education technology.
- (b) Discuss critically the advantages and disadvantages of technology in education.
- (c) Report to the whole group.

Key Information

The roles of educational technology should include:

- improvement of teaching and learning
- facilitation of learning and teaching of disabled children
- consolidation of the teaching process
- exposure of teachers and learners to the recent educational technology and enhancement chances of employment
- linkage of theory to reality
- establishment of technology in administration of schools.

However, educational technology may be viewed as having some of the following disadvantages:

- difficult to maintain
- can be expensive
- schools in remote areas cannot use them due to lack of power.

10.3 IDENTIFICATION OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Activity 10c

- (a) List types of teaching equipment that are not readily available. As inspectors how you would assist those schools to acquire the equipment?
- (b) What factors should be taken into account when procuring school equipment?

Key Information

Some of the relevant technology in education includes:

- audio media
e.g. radio, record player, tape recorder etc
- projected media (audio visual)
e.g. screen and blackout, overhead projectors, slides, televisions, computers, filmstrips, films etc.
- teaching machines (visual)
e.g. video camera, video tape recorder

10.4 SOURCES AND FINANCE

Activity 10d

- (a) Using the list developed in 10c, identify possible sources where you can acquire them.
- (b) As inspectors of schools, given the financial constraints, what advice would you give to schools to procure the equipment?

Key Information

Some sources are:

- Ministry of Education
- media production centres
- donor agencies
- educational resource centres
- suppliers
- schools broadcasting unit
- schools
- school community
- Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

10.5 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Activity 10e

As an inspector in charge of certain schools, you have received a donation to be distributed to all the schools. What steps would you take to ensure that the equipment is being used properly and maintained?

Key Information

In operating and maintaining educational equipment, the following should be considered:

- training of teachers
- management of equipment
- maintenance of equipment
 - (a) teachers for simple maintenance
 - (b) technician for major repairs
- sustainability e.g. replacement

REFLECTION

Having gone through the content and activities of this unit, reflect on your experiences as an inspector and identify ways in which you would advise teachers to use educational technology in improving teaching and learning.

REFERENCE

Farrant J.S. (1991) *Principles and Practice of Education*, Longman, UK