

ABSTRACT

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Effective teaching and learning have always proven to be challenging tasks. Many have alluded that a teacher's role is to prepare a student for a world that has not yet come into existence. For various reasons the world of education has not progressed rapidly enough to effectively prepare students to survive and thrive in this ever-changing technology-infused world. For students to harness technology effectively then more emphasis must be placed on its use in everyday learning. Many teachers experience difficulty in leveraging even the simplest technology tools in the enhancement of teaching activities. Research shows that there are various reasons for this inadequacy and inequity. These range from time constraints, lack of professional development opportunities or defined standards for teacher development, lack of awareness of pedagogical practices that utilize technology and the digital divide.

This thesis attempts to describe the adaptation of the social networking environment, Facebook, as a viable and effective medium for curriculum delivery. Properly harnessed, the environment can facilitate meaningful and collaborative activities to assist in the development of higher order, 21st century skills, and aid in the expected technology integration activities of teachers. The focus of the

project is to examine the potential of such an environment as a pedagogically sound learning medium that can cater for various research proven strategies of delivery and assessment. Accessibility and usability of the environment by education stakeholders, regardless of demographic or social circumstances, is considered. The adaptation is geared to be used as a support resource to regular classroom teaching and activities, as well as a self-learning and collaboration tool to be used by students and teachers. Further, parents can utilize the system as a discreet means of monitoring student participation in various teaching and learning activities.

Keywords: Derek Haqq; Facebook; E-Learning; Teaching; Education; Technology Infusion.