

Investigating the effects of using Weebly on first form Information and Communication
Technology students' communication skills at a selected five year Government Secondary school
in south Trinidad.

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Abstract

This study sought to investigate the effects of using a classroom website as a digital learning space to teach a first form Information and Communication Technology (ICT) class. A Weebly website was used to deliver the Ethics in Technology unit of the ICT curriculum. The aim was to facilitate the development of communication skills among the students. Action research was used to examine and attempt to solve the problem (Parsons and Brown, 2002) of students' poor communication skills. The research was designed to collect data using a mixed methods approach, involving both quantitative and qualitative methods (Creswell, 2013). Four data collection instruments were utilised, including questionnaires, rubrics, checklists and blogs. The findings of the study suggest that the use of a digital learning space as a teaching strategy had a positive impact on students' communication skills and interactions with each other and the teacher. This strategy can be considered a viable approach provided that the necessary technologies (hardware, software and Internet access) are available to facilitate its use.

Keywords: Weebly, classroom website, digital learning space, blog, communication skills