

# Five ways smart gadgets add to learning experience

While some are perturbed over the possible damage being inflicted on the young minds' concentration and critical reasoning abilities, others believe that smart devices, including 5th generation laptops, iPads, tablets and smartphones, give access to technology that will revolutionise learning.



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The recent developments in the technology of these smart gadgets, which are now being adopted as a source of learning in schools, has significantly influenced the development in the field of education, as it has not only made the concept learning fun, but has led to better results.

For those who are still unsure, Jovago.com gives five reasons why smart gadgets are now essential for learning.

## 1. Simplifies learning

One of the major barriers to learning over the years have stemmed from students and learners in general having difficulties understanding the concepts being taught. The interface, apps and software on these smart gadgets help these students learn various subjects easier. For instance, smartphones, laptops, tablets and basically any gadget with a word processor the students use to take notes have built-in dictionaries that auto-correct spelling errors and also correct their grammar in a sentence, helping them build their vocabulary on the go. Also, some of the games and apps (including calculators) on these gadgets make learning difficult subjects like Maths fun, more exciting and easier.

## **2. Early start in developing motor and learning skills**

The basic learning skills include a blend of audio, visual and kinetic skills. Motor skills come in the areas of using the hands either in moving objects, writing or crafting. With smart gadgets, many students learn concepts and how to make inscriptions at an earlier age. A toddler now understands the concept of selecting like objects or colours with the help of games on his laptop or Ipad, and the swiping and movements needed to achieve this knowledge builds his motor skills. Also, he can follow instructions and communicate better by following the visual or audio prompts programmed in these gadgets.

## **3. Better management of special educational needs (SEN)**

ADHD, dyslexia and dyspraxia are some common SEN issues that make learning difficult for some students. Most schools and teachers find it a challenge getting across to these students and so most times, their needs are neglected or not entirely met. With the technology, available instructors can cater to the needs of these students both in and out of the classroom, as most of these gadgets have programs that allow for performance tracking, helping teachers plan for such students, based on their performance and learning competences.

## **4. Fosters independent learning**

With these smart gadgets, people have access to much data and information in form of articles, audio files and video from which they can either learn new concepts on their own or further explore topics that have been introduced to them by their teacher or instructor. With just the smartphone, ignorance is taken away from the student. Access to news, new discoveries and developments are made easy and accessible. Students can even download and bookmark whatever interests them.

## **5. Improved collaboration between teachers and students**

These gadgets bridge the communication gaps between students and teachers, as pupils can reach the lecturers easily and in real time. Mobile text applications and educational social networks including Edmodo and Pals.com connect students with knowledgeable educators who can serve as mentors to them.

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