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CBSE feels 'clickable teacher' will help weaker students

Abhishek Choudhari, TNN Jan 11, 2012, 03:55AM IST

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NAGPUR: One of the most tech-savvy education boards in the country did some more crystal-ball gazing at a technology meet held last week in Kerala. Partly organized by CBSE, the International Conference on Technology Enhanced Education (ICTEE) gave a glimpse into the not-so-distant future of education. Amrita University (Kollam) played host to the seminar where experts talked about how technology will soon be changing the entire education landscape.

Speaking at the conference, CBSE chairman Vineet Joshi said, "Decades ago students were connected to each other and teachers through human network but today the same is being done through technology network. However, a balance is needed between the two networks as indiscriminate use of social media could pose many challenges."

Joshi added that weaker students shy away from asking questions in the class as they are afraid of being ridiculed and reprimanded if there is a mistake. "Students are more comfortable when they use computers as they feel reassured of communicating with a clickable teacher," said Joshi.

The ICTEE was attended by almost 150 principals from across the country and foreign delegates from top educational institutes like [Carnegie Mellon University](#), [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#), [University of California](#) at Berkeley and [Athabasca University \(Canada\)](#).

Under the continuous and comprehensive evaluation (CCE) a lot of focus is on developing life skills among students, and assessed via formative assessment. The CBSE chairman asserted that technology-enhanced education could emphasize on life skills so that students can "do real communication in virtual networks, manage emotions and differentiate between good and bad".

Amrita University is the only Indian institution working with 11 other countries on a project called 'Measuring Learning'. This major consortium project hopes to prepare the ultimate evaluation system where educators would be able to quantify how much students have grasped.

Raghu Raman, director of the university's Centre for Research in Advanced Technologies for Education, said, "This is a two-year project which started in April 2011. The first meeting of the group took place in November in the US and the next will be held at [Beijing](#). All representatives are combining evaluation methods to take education to the next level."

Principals at the seminar got a chance to take a sneak peek at future of science laboratories. Interactive multimedia simulation of Std IX and X science experiments will now help students learn more as compared to a physical laboratory. Raman said, "There are limitations in a physical lab. But in a simulation the students can experiment and learn without any fear. The software called OLabs has been configured to give accurate results based on the curriculum of physics and chemistry, and will be expanded to other subjects later."