A is for App: Surveying Teachers About the Use of iPads/Tablets in the Classroom

Christine Scheper
Minnesota State University - Mankato

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A is for App: Surveying Teachers About the use of iPads/Tablets in the Classroom

Christine Scheper
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Carlos Panahon
Overview

• Importance of topic
• Past studies
• Purpose of my study
• Methods
• Survey
• Conclusions
• Limitations
• Future research
Importance of Technology

- Becoming very popular in classrooms
- In June 2013, of the 155 million iPads sold, 6% or 10 million were in schools (Leonard, 2013)
- Not a lot of research done in this area of study
- Is it helping or hindering children
- What are the teachers using them for?
Past Studies

- Research that has been completed on this topic is mixed (Hutchison, A., Beschorner, B., & Schmidt-Crawford, D. 2012)

- iPad allows educators and students to do things in educational settings that they could not do from a teaching and learning perspective (Murray & Olcese, 2011)

- They believe iPads will not ignite a revolution in schools (Murray & Olcese, 2011)
Murray and Olcese (2011)

- Looked at all apps under the education portion of the Apple store
- Classified them into five learning categories
- Found many of the useful teaching apps are outside the education category
Purpose of Study

- Extend the findings from Murray and Olcese
  - Four categories: tutor, explore, tool, and communicate
- The four categories provided by Murray and Olcese were broken down by subject matter
  - Helpful for teachers to know which apps to use for each subject
Purpose of Study

♦ Know why kindergarten through sixth grade teachers are using technology in the classroom
♦ Teachers perspective if technology is beneficial to the students
♦ Know the current uses of tablet technology in the classroom in addition to figuring out which type of apps are being used
Hypotheses

- Apps in the classroom are serving as instructional aids and curriculum supplements in order to improve students learning
- The tutor application category is highly used
Methods

- 18 question survey
- Kindergarten through sixth grade teachers
- Part 1: demographic information
- Part 2: their experience with iPads/tablets
- Part 3: three most popular applications that fall under each category
Survey

1. Gender
   < 84% Female, 16% Male

2. Age
   < Average age: 38, Range: 24-62
Survey

3. What grade(s) are you currently teaching?

- Kindergarten: 25%
- 1st grade: 21%
- 2nd grade: 19%
- 3rd grade: 25%
- 4th grade: 25%
- 5th grade: 16%
- 6th grade: 19%
- Other: 8%
Survey

4. How many years have you been teaching?
   < Average: 14.5, Range: 2-31

5. What kind of iPads/tablets are available for use in the classroom?
   < iPad: 100%

6. How many iPads/tablets are available for use by students in the classroom?
   < Average: 12, Range: 0-32
7. How many iPads/tablets are available for use by the teachers in the classroom?
   < Average: 2, Range: 0-30

8. What was the intended purpose of the iPads/tablets in the classroom when they were originally provided?
   < Instructional aid: 39%
   < Instructional aid and skill practice: 23%
   < Interventions: 6%
   < Other: 5%
   < Reinforcement: 3%
Survey

9. What is the current purpose of the iPads/tablets in your classroom?
   < Instructional aid and skill practice: 26%
   < Instructional aid: 25%
   < Skill practice: 10%
   < Reinforcement/reward: 6%

10. Were there any challenges getting iPads/tablets into your classroom?
    < Yes: 66% (expense, sharing with other staff/classrooms, app installation)
    < No: 34%
11. Have there been any challenges you have faced while incorporating iPads/tablets in your classroom?
   < Yes 73% (sharing with other staff/classrooms, app installation)
   < No: 27%

12. Have the iPads/tablets helped in your classroom?
   < Yes: 95%, No: 5%
13. Please rank how beneficial iPads/tablets have been in each category

- **Social/Emotional Support**: Highly beneficial (60% of respondents)
- **Leisure/Free Time**: Highly beneficial (60% of respondents)
- **Math**: Highly beneficial (60% of respondents)
- **Writing**: Slightly beneficial (40% of respondents)
- **Reading**: Not At All beneficial (0% of respondents)

**Note:** The survey results are based on a scale of 0% to 100%, with specific categories indicating the level of benefit.
14. Top 3 apps used for reading

- **Explorative**
  - < Tumblebooks (8)
  - < ScootPad (7)
  - < Starfall (3)
  - < ABCya (3)

- **Tutor**
  - < Educreations (2)
Survey

15. Top 3 apps used for writing

- Tutor
  - Google (3)
  - Educreations (2)
  - Screen chomp (2)
  - Dictionary (1)
16. Top 3 apps used for math

- Explorative
  - iXl (30)
  - Sushi monster (6)
  - Flash to pass (5)
  - Everyday math apps (5)
  - Zombie math (5)
  - Scootpad (3)

- Tutor
  - Educreations (1)
Survey

17. Top 3 apps used for leisure/free time

- **Tool**
  - < Camera (2)
  - < Elmo ABCs (1)

- **Explorative**
  - < iXL (1)
  - < Khan academy (1)
Survey

18. Top 3 apps used for social/emotional support

- Tool
  - School express (1)
  - Visual timer (1)
Conclusions

- Apps in the classroom are serving as instructional aids and curriculum supplements in order to improve students learning.
- The tutor application category is highly used.
- Used for their intended purpose.
- Teachers feel iPads are most beneficial in Math and Reading.
Limitations

- Approval process
- Minnesota weather
- Small sample size
- Only southern Minnesota
- Kindergarten through sixth grade
- Some participants did not answer all of the questions
Future Research

- Amount of time children are using technology
- Look more into how it is helping/hindering students (grades, performance)
- Observing in class settings
- Figuring out who decides on what apps are being used, how do they decide this?
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Questions?