

Teachers' Attitude and Knowledge as Predictors of Effective Use of Digital Devices for the Education of Students with Special Needs in Oyo, Nigeria

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Abstract : Giving quality education to students with special needs requires that all necessary resources should be harnessed and digital devices has become important part of resources used as instructional materials in educating students with special needs. Teachers who will make use of these technologies are considered as a part of the most important elements in any educational programme and the effective usage of these technologies largely depends on them. Out of numerous determinants of the effective use of these digital devices, this study examines teachers' attitude and knowledge as predictors of effective use of digital technology for education of special needs student in Oyo state, Nigeria. The descriptive survey research design of the expo-facto type was adopted for the study, using simple random sampling technique. The study was carried out among sixty (60) participants. Two research questions and two research hypotheses were formulated and used. The data collected through the research instruments for the study were analysed using frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation, Pearson, Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) and Multiple Regression Analysis. The study revealed a significant relationship between teachers attitude ($p < 0.05$) and effective use of digital technologies for special needs students. Furthermore, there was a significant contribution F ($F=4.289$; $R=0.876$ and $R^2 =0.758$) in the joint contribution of the independent variable (teacher's attitude and teacher's knowledge) and dependent variable (effective use of digital technologies) while teachers knowledge have the highest contribution ($b=7.926$, $t=4.376$), the study therefore revealed that teachers attitude and knowledge are potent factors that predicts the effective usage of digital technologies for the education of special needs student. The study recommended that due to the ever-changing nature of technology which comes with new features, teachers should be equipped with appropriate knowledge in order to effectively make use of them and teachers should also develop right attitude toward the use of digital technologies

Keywords : teachers' knowledge, teachers' attitude, digital devices, special needs students

Conference Title : ICELS 2024 : International Conference on Education and Learning Sciences

Conference Location : Madagascar, Madagascar

Conference Dates : October 03-04, 2024