

Mobile Applications as Educators

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ABSTRACT

Are mobile applications serving their purpose as educators? What should be the considerations while creating educational mobile applications? The answers to these questions lie in a variety of learning approaches and theories; personalized learning, game-based learning to name a few. The purpose of this presentation is to dig deeper into this answer by highlighting the importance of considering the role of these learning approaches and theories in the act of creating an educational mobile application.

The process of creating an educational mobile application is more than just forming project documents and development plans and following them with accurate programming and flawless execution. A successful mobile application is one that keeps its end-consumer in mind right from the very beginning. How can one do this while creating educational mobile applications? The answer is Learning Analytics and it goes without saying that it can enable developers to know in advance the requirements of the learners before even beginning the development process, therefore ensuring that the end-product lives up to its expectations. The next question that arises is that how one can ensure the educational potential of these applications? Learning theories come into play here with the ideal approach being the implementation of suitable learning theories in accordance with the results of the learning analysis. Game-based learning is the next step to take with most educational applications having incorporated this approach. After all, games as pedagogical devices encourage problem-solving skills, introduce creative thinking and ensure effective learner-engagement.

Why should educational mobile applications take elaborate efforts to incorporate the aforementioned? Learning should always be provided in the best manner possible. This is only possible with an assiduous outlook – a practical implementation of personalized learning, learning analytics and game-based learning. The statements made above are not without their bounty of evidence.