Perception of Pre-Service Teachers Towards Using Nearpod as an Active Learning Tool

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Abstract:
The extensive use of Information and technology has transformed students into digital students, so teachers also use technology to attract students to their learning. Teachers used smart boards, projectors, tablets, etc. in the classrooms for active learning. Technology plays an important role in today's scenario. In this study researcher uses Nearpod as an active learning tool, with the help of this tool teacher create interactive lessons, and contains assessments in the form of quizzes, polls, videos, collaborative board which all are in one place in Nearpod. This platform is designed to enhance student engagement, participation and interactive learning experiences. It is helpful for both teachers and students also. The aim of this study is to find out the perception of pre-service teachers towards Nearpod as an Active learning platform. For this study researcher selected Section A which has 50 Pre-Service teachers from the Lloyd College of Education of Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar District. To achieve the objective of perception towards Nearpod, a survey method using a questionnaire is used. Primary data is used to collect information on the perception towards Nearpod from students. The findings show that students have a positive attitude towards using Nearpod.

Keywords: Nearpod, Active Learning, Perception, Pre-Service teachers

Introduction:
Now Information Technology mostly used in classrooms in the form of smartboards, tablets, projectors, different educational apps like Nearpod, Duolingo, khan academy etc. different online class platform like Google classroom, zoom, Google meet, Microsoft team, etc. The integration of technology in higher education is reshaping how education is accessed and delivered. Online learning, digital resources and virtual collaboration, is enhanced personalized and efficient learning environments.

Active Learning:
Active Learning is a learning method where students actively participate in the learning process. Active learning is beneficial for students to perform better, to develop practical problem-solving skills, and deeply engaged with subjects. The term active learning describes a wide range of instructional techniques that involve student as active participants in their education with their teacher. These instructional techniques involve student's collaborative working in the classroom, but they can also include independent work. If we use active learning methodology in the classroom then there is no need to leave the lecture method. Instead, lecturing can be made more beneficial for students learning by adding a few active learning techniques. Before using lecturing technique, using different activities for active learning strategies that allow students to practice a skill, identify knowledge gaps, or assess their knowledge for subject. Use various activities in the classroom, students actively learn by doing and using both their bodies and minds. It encourages students to take charge over their learning journey.
Active learning is an instructional approach that actively engages students in the learning process and encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning. Nearpod as an Active Learning Tool transforms traditional learning into interactive learning. Teaching with technical toll

like Nearpod, teacher can add interactivity to their instruction, spark collaboration, and engage students mentally and physically. It allows students to take their learning enhanced and motivate them to engage in everyday's learning and encouraged to make decisions, leading to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Benefits of Active Learning:

• Active Learning techniques improve students' retention. Students are likely to retain material when the actively participate in discussions, and debates.

• Critical Thinking abilities to develop through active learning. In order to develop their ability to solve problems and make decisions, learners do more than simply take in knowledge; they also analyze, assess, and synthesize it.

• Collaboration and team work is a part of active learning. Students increased their teamwork abilities and interpersonal skills through discussion and activities.

• Active learning increased student's engagement. Interactive exercise engaged students' interest and inspired them to make their learning more effective and interesting.

Nearpod:

Source: https://www.simplyspecialed.com/nearpod-for-special-education/

Nearpod is an active learning web-based tool. It was created to keep students engaged and improve their academic experience. It enables teachers to develop multimedia-rich lessons that include different interactive exercises like videos, quizzes, polls, and presentations. Nearpod is helpful for teachers to track students' progress in real-time and modify their teaching strategies as needed. It is frequently used to enhance the dynamic and interactive nature of lessons in both in-person and virtual classrooms. Whether students are learning at home or in the classroom, its connectivity with a wide range of devices like laptops and tablets, etc. This platform helps deliver lessons smoothly and it has pre-made lesson plans for teaching so that teachers can readily modify it making it an invaluable resource. It increases student participation and interaction in the classroom.

**Source:**https://elearning.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/training/live-interactive-presentations-with-nearpod/

Nearpod is known as real-time platform. This programme is designed to make learning more interactive, effective and engaging and allowing teachers to guide students with the help of lesson plan which is created through Nearpod, monitor progress, and assess understanding live during the lesson. When student participate in different activities during class through Nearpod, the teacher can see their answers in real-time, then teachers can judge their understanding, and provide support where needed. This platform allows for a wide range of real-time interactive activities, like quizzes, polls, multiple choice questions, open ended questions, collaborative boards, draw it, etc. it also allows for asynchronous learning where students can use that lessons at their own pace. In real time situation teacher monitor students' progress, teacher manages classroom participation, and there is less chance for distractions. This situation keeps students focused and actively learning throughout the lesson. The real-time platform is a powerful tool for modern classrooms, it offers instant feedback, class engagement, interactive learning, whether students are in the classroom or online classroom.

Active Learning through Nearpod:
Active Learning motivates students to explore more and make personal connections through meaningful learning experience. Nearpod is a web technology that helps teachers to customize and focus learning activities for students personalized or individualized learning. These kinds of experiences help the students to take charge of their education and to become a lifelong learner. Nearpod provides a variety of interactive activities created specifically to encourage student participation. Nearpod turns learning into engaging journey, motivating students along the way with its engaging interactive videos, educational games like time to climb, polls, collaborative boards, open-ended questions and MCQ. Students' educational opportunities are changed by active learning, which enhances academic performance. It help students of all ages develop a variety of learning methods as they assimilate and retain new information, active learning strategies rely on activities that incorporate psychomotor activities. Active learning environment created by Nearpod where every student participates, and increased engagement through interactive features that place students at the center of learning. Nearpod gives many chances for teachers and students to collaborate and established connections. Students learn how to use technology safely, successfully, and appropriately through Nearpods' interactive lessons and activities, which also create powerful and good school environments. It gives teachers the ability to assess students' learning in real-time, which helps them to make decisions about instructions right now. Teachers can easily keep an eye on student's progress and provide immediate solutions when a student has a query. Immediate feedback has the great advantage for students, who become more self conscious, focused, and self assured.

Nearpod empowers Pre-service Teachers:
Pre-service teachers are a student who is training to become a teacher but has not yet started teaching. They are also known as teacher trainee. Nearpod is regarded as an active learning tool that can be especially helpful for pre-service teachers. It enables them to design interactive and engaging lesson plans with different attractive features like videos, quizzes, collaborative boards, draw it, and polls etc. that increase student participation.
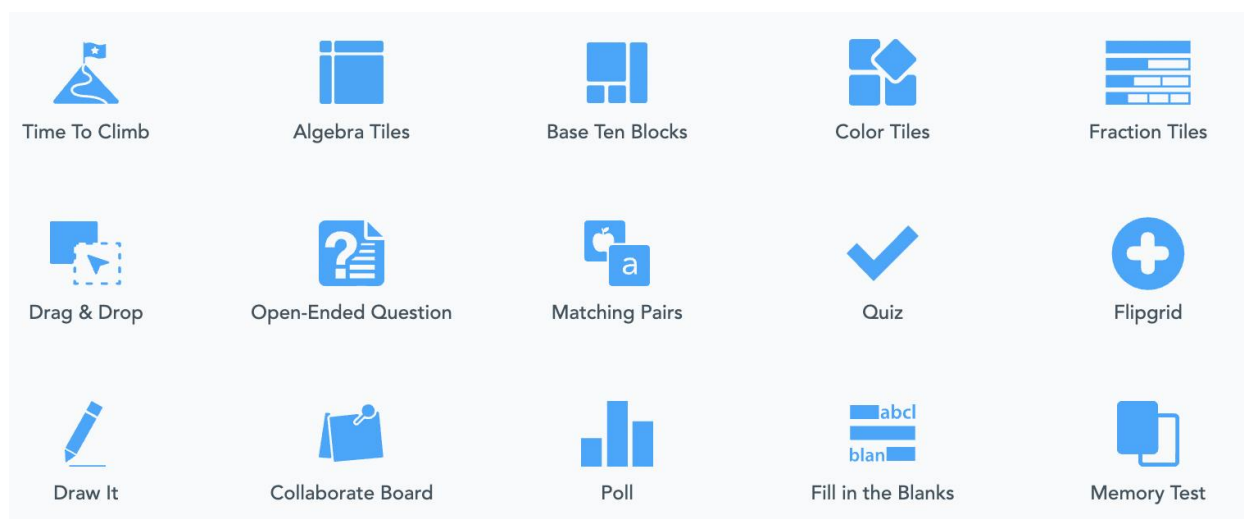
Pre-service teachers can assess student knowledge and modify their teaching strategy based on the platforms' instant feedback on responses. They are uses different learning styles by including different media into their classes, such as presentations, text, graphics, and videos. Nearpod has a collaborative feature that is a collaborative board, it allows students to work and share ideas in real-time and it focuses on active participation and collaboration skills. Nearpod is a useful tool for pre-service instructors to practice giving attractive virtual classes in the light of the popularity of the online learning. Teaching through Nearpod includes virtual reality field excursions, YouTube videos, and Google slides, which allow teachers to collect and organize a wide range of resources to prepare lesson plans. Nearpod's interactive activities make it simple for teachers to add interest to their courses while simultaneously collecting formative assessment data to inform future instruction or make last-minute teaching adjustments.

Objectives:
The objectives are follows:
- To know about Nearpod
- To study the perception of pre-service teachers towards Nearpod

Methodology
Research Design
This research is descriptive study and it used a survey research design with a mixture of qualitative and quantitative data collection methods to obtain the result (Saud, 2023). Questionnaire survey that utilized 20 items and every item assessed on 5-points Likert (Qasem et.al 2016).

Participants:
Primary source is used to collect the data with the help of questionnaire. The 50 pre-service teachers are chosen for this study from Lloyd College of education at Greater Noida. The purpose of this study to find out the perception towards Nearpod in teaching and learning. This study is applied on pre-service teachers to check their willingness to adopt this active learning tool in their teaching.

Tools construction:
A perception scale was used to measure the perception of pre service teachers towards Nearpod. This scale has 20 items, and the response for each item was judged by 5 point likert scale with a range from 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = undecided, 4 = Agree, 5 = strongly agree (Qasem et.al 2016). Five professional experts in research reviewed the questionnaire, and based on

their comments, the necessary changes were made. The questionnaire was given to 7 students outside the study group for pilot testing and the questions' understanding was assessed (Ozcinar et.al 2020).

Teaching Material

This study focused on teaching and learning through Nearpod, and the researcher wants to know its impact on class interest, attention and engagement. This tool motivates students and teachers, students can engage with different activities like quizzes, polls and videos and keep their attention. Nearpod motivates teachers by providing an Active Learning platform that makes their teaching more dynamic and student centered. With the help of this tool researcher teach 2nd unit (Human Development) of psychology which subject name is 'Growing up as a learner' syllabus is prescribed by the CCS University Meerut. Following Topics are covered:

Table 1
Topics to be covered from Unit 2 of Psychology Subject

Sl No.	Topics	No. Of Days and Hours
1	Growth and Development: Meaning of Growth and Development, Characteristics of Growth and Development, Difference between Growth and development, Factors influencing Growth and development.	2 days, 1 hour for each day
2	Stages of Development: Infancy Stage – Physical Development, Intellectual Development, Emotional Development, Social Development, Educational Implication	2 days, 1 hour for each day
3	Childhood Period - Physical Development, Intellectual Development, Emotional Development, Social Development, Educational Implication	2 days, 1 hour for each day
4	Adolescence Period – Meaning and definition of Adolescence, characteristics of Adolescence, Intellectual Development	1 day, 1 hour for each day
5	Adolescence Period – Intellectual Development, Emotional Development, Social Development,	3 day, 1 hour for each day
6	Adolescence Period – Needs of Adolescents, Social Problems of Adolescents, Education for Adolescents	1 day, 1 hour for each day
7	Cognitive Development with reference to Jean Piaget: Meaning and components of Cognitive Development	1 day, 1 hour for each day
8	Stages of Cognitive Development	2 days, 1 hour for each day
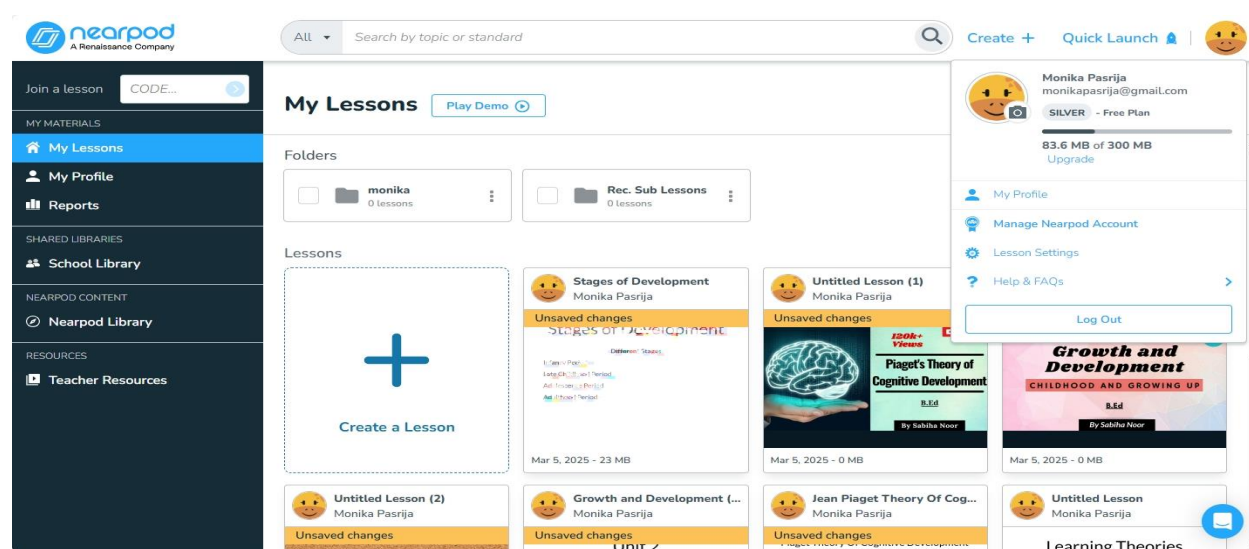
Nearpod Lessons
Result:

A planned and structured questionnaire was used in this study to collect the information on perception towards Nearpod from the pre-service teachers regarding the use of Nearpod in teaching. The questionnaire prepared with ten questions on a 5 point Likert scale which ranged from strongly agree to strongly disagree. This questionnaire focused on different aspects of Nearpod use in teaching and learning like class engagement, interaction, effectiveness, and student retention powers, and also focused on how pre-service teachers will use Nearpod while teaching. The purpose of this questionnaire is to know more about the pre-service teacher's opinions the use of Nearpod in the classroom.

Table 2
Students Responses:

Sl No.	Statements	Strongly Agree %	Agree %	Undecided %	Disagree %
1	Nearpod is easy to use.	5	90	2	4
2	Nearpod helps me to be more engaged and to stay focused in class.	4	89	3	4
3	I enjoy learning when using the Nearpod integrated videos.	5	88	2	5
4	Nearpod enhances understanding of the material taught in the class.	3	86	3	8
5	Nearpod helps retain information better than traditional teaching methods.	5	91	2	2
6	Nearpod is an effective tool for psychology subject.	3	81	10	6
7	Nearpod improves overall academic performance.	5	85	3	7
8	Lectures are explained better through Nearpod.	3	86	6	5
9	You will plan to use nearpod in future.	4	93	1	2

The majority of the points that students agreed upon about using Nearpod as a web-based tool for pre-service teachers are displayed in table 2. As shown in Table 2, 89% of students agreed that Nearpod helps students to be more engaged and to stay focused in class. Additionally, 91% of the

students realized that Nearpod helps retain information better than traditional teaching methods. Similarly, 93% students are planning to use Nearpod in future.

According to Table 2 the students believed that using the Nearpod as an active learning tool could help them to understand the lectures better. In another way Nearpod's accessibility encouraged more interaction between students and their teacher, which improved their understanding and retention of the content taught. As shown in table 85% of the students indicated that Nearpod's as an active learning tool and collaborate with different activities improved overall academic performance of the students. Same as 86% of students said that the lectures are explained better through Nearpod. Nearpod can be used to support instructors to involve students in active learning by presenting different learning tasks and learning materials. (Hakami mohssen et.al, 2019)

Conclusion:

In modern time everyone like latest technologies in teaching as compared to traditional methods of teaching. Even students also like modern technologies because it attract student's attention and engaged in the classroom. This research indicates that students have positive perception towards Nearpod as an active learning tool. This tool is very useful for pre-service teachers; they recognized its potential to enhance engagement, interactivity, and overall teaching effectiveness. Different Nearpod features like real-time feedback, interactive activities, and multimedia integration are valued by pre-service teachers because they make learning more dynamic and engaging.

However, few technical difficulties are noted, such as internet connectivity problem, issues with accessibility or digital literacy. Although these difficulties, it is generally agreed that Nearpod has a great deal of promise for educating aspiring educators for interactive and student centered classrooms. To achieve the best outcomes, pre-service teachers should receive continuous assistance and professional developments to enable them use this technology in to their lesson plans.

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