HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT IN SMART SCHOOL PROGRAMMES FOR
STRENGTHENING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

The Educational Technology Division, Ministry of Education (MOE) has always been in the forefront in integration of technology in teaching and learning. The MBMMBI program for Strengthening English Language has been given priority and there is a need to ensure there are sufficient teaching and learning materials available to support this programme. In addition, training in the integration of technology in education has to be provided for teachers. Several programmes for teacher development have been implemented. Training for the Media-Library Teachers and ICT Coordinators as change agents in schools is being conducted. These specialist teachers would train other teachers in their schools on the integration of digital materials in teaching and learning. Specifically for English Language instruction, several programmes were conducted with MOE’s smart partners on the developing podcasts (audio materials) for listening, as well as videos and other digital materials for teaching language skills. The move towards user-generated content has ensured that programmes for students are also conducted. Students have developed digital stories, and upload online projects for sharing in an online community. These programmes have led to different models of instruction for the integration of technology in instruction.

INTRODUCTION

Malaysia’s Vision 2020 was for the creation of a knowledgeable and technology-literate workforce. Launched in 1991, Vision 2020 was to shift the focus of the nation towards a knowledge-based economy for the Digital Age. This brought about a change in the education system. The education system of Malaysia evolved to meet the challenges and demands of the Digital Age. To prepare students for the 21st century, ICT (Information Communications Technology), the key enabler of globalization, must be integrated in the education system. When used optimally, ICT is extremely effective in attaining specific social and economic development goals.

The Smart School initiative, one of the seven flagships of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) Malaysia, was to kick-start Malaysia’s journey towards transforming the nation into a knowledge based economy. The Smart School concept included teaching and learning practices, and school management. The objectives of the Smart School are to