MICROSOFT EDUCATOR EXCHANGE (E2) – 2017

Toronto, Canada

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Introduction

Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert programme is introduced to the Sri Lankan teachers through the Microsoft Educator Community. (https://education.microsoft.com).

The Microsoft Educator Community makes a good platform for the teachers for professional development and make use of the free resources and collaborate with the teachers globally. Through an online application process which needed uploading learning activities, tutorials and other teaching resources, Microsoft innovative Expert Educators are selected each year.

The Microsoft Innovative Educator (MIE) programs recognize global educator visionaries who are using technology to pave the way for their peers for better learning and student outcomes. These are a variety of programs to help both educators who are just beginning this journey, as well as programs for educators who are leaders in innovative education.

My Journey as a Microsoft Innovative Expert Educator.

I have been working as a Microsoft Innovative Expert Educator since 2014. After I participated for the Microsoft in education Global Forum in Barcelona, Spain. I continue sharing my experience with my colleagues while engage in professional development through the MEC. Training teachers on Teach with Technology becomes one of the main roles in my profession. And I became a Microsoft Educator Master Trainer by training teachers over 400.I have contributed my knowledge and experience to the teachers and students in various parts of Sri Lanka under the guidance of Ministry of Education. As a result of engagement of the various collaborative educational activities globally and locally through the MEC, I have been recognized as MIE Expert 2015 and 2016 too.

Online professional development sessions, webinars and Skype sessions were the media through which the educators connected occasionally for the purpose of updating.

During 2016- 2017 MIEE programme I have been nominated as Microsoft Innovative Educator Fellow, which is the highest ever recognition given by the Microsoft World Wide Education. I was invited to participate E2 event – fellow track at Toronto, Canada

Microsoft Innovative Educator Fellow 2016-2017
Awarded to selected Microsoft Educator Community Members for demonstrated MIE Expert or Trainer achievements and dedicated time to work with Microsoft and educators to transform classroom learning.

Microsoft Educator Community

https://education.microsoft.com/Status/Achievements

Microsoft in Educator Exchange (E2) Fellow Track

Three main responsibilities at E2.

- Ignite session – Presentation on Constructivist teaching, enhanced with ICTs for 21st Century Citizens

This presentation is on importance of constructivist teaching to develop 21st Century Skills for workplace readiness. Constructivist theories -which are based on the concept that learning occurs as learners are actively involved in a process of meaning and knowledge construction- are the base of Project based Learning. Use of Project Based Learning (PBL) activities, use of Visual Programming Languages (VPL) in classroom and creating authentic learning environments to make students ready for universities and workplaces are discussed. The importance of Zone of Proximal Development (ZDP- Lev Vygotsky), scaffolding and constructivist teachers' roles are focused in the presentation.

- Coach a group of MIE Experts to the Educator Challenge.

  Group 15 - Kristin Barr – US, Wei Li – China, Mushaira Shafei –Egypt, Moon Cheol Seok – Korea, Hun Chung – Taiwan

- Judge the final pitches that the MIE Expert Challenge groups submit.

Microsoft Innovative Expert Educator- E2 Team 2017

Team is consisted of four teachers, two MIE Fellows and two MIEEs.

Microsoft Educator Exchange (E2) was designed to engage educators in professional development sessions and to collaborate and compete in friendly background. Exhibiting the learning activities was an important event, where the teachers could share their views, teaching strategies, approaches, instructional designs and use of different ICT tools in order to enhance students' learning outcomes.

Other Educational Experience

    Keynote speeches

    Educational Exhibition

    Hands on Training - Coding with Micro:bit and making Robotic Hand sensors with Arduino

My Suggestions

As the current Sri Lankan school curriculum is student- centred and competency - based, some of the 21st Century skills are already focused in today's classroom. Yet, they can be upgraded with more technology enhanced, learner friendly teaching approaches.

To give experience of collaboration and communication with technology, teachers can guide students for better use of social networks such as face book and twitter, writing blogs, OneNote and many other tools. Use of Local online Learning Management Systems like e-Thaksalawa and schoolnet should be encouraged as a part of teaching –learning process.

I wish to share my new experience on how to guide younger students for coding in lower grades with the primary and junior secondary teachers. Through a proposal I expect to implement teacher workshops on Teach With Technology and student sessions on coding with Micro:bit.