



Educators for a Digital Age

Media, Technology & Education



Program Description

In an era of "phone-based childhoods" and the relentless digitization of our environments, educators face a profound challenge: How do we leverage the power of technology without eroding student attention, mental health, and cognitive depth?

This program equips educators to move beyond the technology fatigue towards thoughtful and critical integration for advancing authentic student learning. Drawing on the insights of Neil Postman and Jonathan Haidt alongside the rigorous cognitive science of Richard Mayer and John Sweller, participants will develop a rigorous understanding of how media shapes knowledge, identity and adolescent wellbeing. Through a blend of reflection and hands-on practice — including Directed Viewing Thinking Activities, Socratic questioning and evidence-based multimedia design — educators will leave with the conceptual frameworks and practical tools to design learning experiences that are technologically intentional, cognitively sound and deeply human-centered.

Program Objectives

It is expected that by the end of this course participants would be able to:

- Critically examine the psychological impact of media and technology on student learning, attention and wellbeing.
- Design cognitively informed learning experiences that integrate audio-visual and multimedia resources effectively.
- Deploy practical strategies — including DVTAs and Socratic questioning — that develop students as active, critical thinkers.
- Teach digital literacy as a structured discipline, equipping students to evaluate information and navigate digital spaces responsibly.

Program Outline

Session 1

The world your students are Living In

- Attention Economy and Impact on Classrooms
- Teaching as a Performative Art
- Becoming Media Literate

Sources: UNICEF; Common Sense Education

Session 2

Why this matters more than you think?

- From Print Culture to a Visual Culture
- Whose knowledge gets amplified?
- Erosion of Reading and Deep Thought

Scholars: Neil Postman and Antonia Gramsci

Session 3

What does the research say?

- Changing Childhoods
- Attention Fragmentation and Sleep Deprivation
- What can Educators do?

Scholars: Jonathan Haidt

Session 4

Teaching with Audio-Visual Resources

- Directed Viewing Thinking Activity
- Critical Thinking and AV resources
- Socratic Questioning and Meaning Making

Scholars: Doug Lemov

Session 5

Integrating Multimedia Learning

- Cognition and Multimedia Learning
- What works with Multimedia Learning?
- Designing Meaningful Multimedia Experiences

Scholars: Mayer & Sweller

Session 6

Digital Literacy for Students

- Critical Evaluation of Digital Resources
- Identifying Bias, Misinformation and Propaganda
- Digital Identity and Ethics in

Sources: ISTE Standards and Common Sense Education

Program Delivery and Pedagogy

1. 6-online interconnected working sessions.
2. Interactive sessions featuring Socratic questioning, textual reading and debate.
3. Collaborative group work using break-out rooms.
4. Using scholarly texts and audio-visual materials.
5. Downloadable Content available on Google Classrooms.

Facilitator's Profile

Abdul Haseeb Shaikh

Educational Consultant – Curriculum Design,
Educational Leadership and Pedagogy

Abdul Haseeb brings over a decade of professional experience spanning educational consulting, leadership development, and teaching. He has worked with leading educational organizations across Pakistan, Lebanon, and Qatar, and holds an MA from the University of Warwick, UK.

