Innovative approaches for digital skills revolution

Today in the classrooms we develop more empathy for others within community and it help students to become better, more productive and self-aware.

Nowadays, national curriculum and teaching techniques are more adjusted to lifelong learning and adopting useful skills. Teaching adults is even more demanding than teaching children because your learners expect to overmaster with skills and knowledge in a short time period with remarkably results. How can we motivate an adult learner who was not willing to learn when he was a child and decide to leave education earlier than expected?

Keillor and Littlefield (2012) have developed the following list of best practices for "promoting an adult's readiness to learn."

1. Create a safe, welcoming learning environment

2. Create a culture of empathy, respect, approach-ability, authenticity

3. Collaborate on the diagnosis of learning needs

4. Collaborate on developing learning objectives and in instructional planning

5. Ensure the practicality of all learning activities

Traditional literacy is often understood as the ability to read and write, but beside this ability adult learners need to overcome one more ability, digital literacy.

According to the American Library Association, digital literacy is "the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills." Digital literacy is not just reading and writing online. It's also the ability to find information, use critical thinking skills to evaluate the credibility of the information, create new content, and communicate all of that.

As the definition points out, digital literacy requires an ability to use many different forms of technology, on top of the more traditional literacy and critical thinking skills.[1]

The main point all of these skills is the significance of direct instruction and support networks. Trainers can positively contribute to adults' digital literacy skills when they explain and model different skills in an open and low-stakes environment. For adults who may be struggling in digital spaces, social support from friends, family, and colleagues can be effective, particularly for older adults who may lack experience with technology. This support can also minimize frustration and help ease any anxiety surrounding the use of technology.What they really need is empathy, emotional intelligence is an important part of educational chain and we must not miss it.

That is the main reason why is SEL (Social Emotional Learning) so important in Adult Learning.

Last but not least important, inviting adults to immerse themselves in practice using digital technologies has been shown to be effective in boosting overall digital literacy.

We need combination of implementing digital skills into traditional classes because, digital abilities are needed for their future employment. Adult learners especially those who belong to vulnerable groups, need our help (not only trainers' but whole educational system) to overcome digital literacy and skills gap.

Teachers don't have to be specialized in programming skills.All that is needed is the willingness to do it and a little bit of research. There are numerous web sites with content already adapted to students' needs that can be modified further to be implemented in your classes. For those who desire to use their imagination and create their own educational resources, there is a wide range of options available. What is more important, in this way we can individualize our classes according to student's need and we motivate them for using technology in their future work.

Therefore, get out of the box, be open minded and don't be afraid of failure because:
" Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world",
Nelson Mandela.

[1] Available at:
https://www.avast.com/c-digital-literacy