

CODING: 21st Century Requirement

Coding is all over the television and social media. Is it really that important?

Current generation (school kids) are exposed to technology (computer, mobile, tab etc. on the hardware side and MS Office, Email, Facebook, WhatsApp and other apps on the software side) from day one. This exposure is not designed to impart education or make them competitive, but is simply part of their life since birth. They don't need to be taught how to use these gadgets; they pick up the user skills on their own as they grow up. Coding is the next level of software knowledge (technical) which gives an insight of what goes into developing a software / app. Coding in its different forms is the language that the computer understands to perform a task just like we use Hindi, English and numerous other languages to communicate. CBSE has already introduced basics of Scratch and HTML at middle school level. Clearly coding is not an unknown factor for kids and is very much part of school curriculum.

It's important for those children who have an extra bit of interest in computers to learn coding during their middle class schooling, as when they opt for "Computers" as a core subject in their higher studies, they would have already had exposure to coding and hence will have a head start vis a vis others.. But, parents should not expect too much out of this learning experience as learning coding is like learning an additional language. Coding is a basic literacy in the digital age, it helps a child's logical thinking process and hence can help develop their mind to deliver structured outcome in other fields.

Computers are going to remain part of our life for generations to come and will only become even more high tech. Thus, knowledge of coding at an early age will only help someone relate to the inside of software and be more confident in future if he or she chooses to pursue Computer as a career.