



ROLE OF ICT IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT:

The world is moving rapidly into digital media and information, the role of ICT in education is becoming more and more important and this importance will continue to grow and develop in the 21st century. ICT has become an integral part of today's teaching learning process. Our higher education system needs to improve the quality of education through information technology.

Effective use of technology can motivate students take our classes more dynamic and interesting. The use of ICT in education not only improves classroom teaching learning process, but also provides the facility of e-learning. Integrating the use of ICT in education with interactive technology has found positive impact on student achievements.

Technologies in ICT includes:-

- Access of course material
- online digital repositories for lecture, Course material and digital library.
Flipped classroom
- Audio-Video devices, Projector, online presentations are useful in enhancing students understanding level.

Keywords:-

Information and communication Technology, ICT initiatives, Higher Education.

INTRODUCTION: -

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is referred to as the collection of technological tools and resources used to communicate, generate, distribute, collect and administer information. ICT is a force that has changed many aspects of our day-to-day life. Effective use of technology can motivate students, make our classes more dynamic and interesting and renew teacher enthusiasm as they learn new skills and techniques. Technology is also helping the students to understand any abstract concepts clearly. ICT has become an integral part of today's teaching learning process. The integration of ICTs in teaching in general and teacher education in particular is the need of the day.

The use of ICT offers powerful learning environments and can transform the learning and teaching process so that students can deal with knowledge in an active, self-directed and constructive way (Volman & Van Eck, 2001; de Corte et al., 2003). The innovative use of ICT is believed to significantly strengthen higher education system and addresses the three fundamental challenges of access, equity and quality

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

Information and communication technology in higher education in India: challenges and opportunities (2014). The study revealed that ICT enabled education will ultimately lead to the democratization of education and it has the potential for transforming higher education in India. Lalitbushan S. Waghmare, et-al (2014) studied "Role of Information and communication technology in Higher education: learners' perspective in rural medical schools". They concluded that there is a need to foresee the role of technology in education which helps in encouraging students towards learning.

ICT Initiatives in Higher Education.: -

Nowadays the role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), especially internet in the education sector plays an important role, especially in the process of empowering the technology into the educational activities. Various initiatives in the recent past portrayed the significant role that ICT plays in the realm of higher education development. Several projects have reduced the costs, and it also has increased transparency.

India has taken up major initiatives in terms of content delivery and furthering education through Information and Communication technology. For example Gyan Darshan was launched in 2000 in broadcast educational programs for school kids, university students and adults. Similarly, Gyan Vani was another such important step with broadcast programs contributed by institution such as IGNOU and IITs.

Benefits of ICT

- ♣ It motivates learners through hands-on activity, visual representations and improved modes of presentation;
- ♣ Provides in depth understanding of the subject matter.
- ♣ Equalizes individual differences and has particularly dramatic effects for students with special needs;
- ♣ Facilitates self-pacing with increased capacities to deal with individual learning styles as students can work at the pace and intensity suitable to their needs;
- ♣ Enables collaborative learning
- ♣ Encourages use of peer coaching and peer reviews;
- ♣ Develops communication skills and awareness of different audiences;
- ♣ Has impact on resource-based learning and access to real world information through the Web;
- ♣ Students get opportunity to participate an International Conference.
- ♣ Students get a chance to interact with research scholars from all over the world.
- ♣ Increases information reliability and accuracy adding to authenticity of learning tasks, with realistic and up-to-date information;
- ♣ Encourages independent learning and individual preferences for process, layout, style and format;

RECOMMENDATION

The following key points may be considered as recommendations for the development of ICT driven education in India:

1. Adequate funding is necessary for tertiary education in general and development of ICT in particular. To this end, government should increase funding for the entire educational sector.
2. In addition to improved funding by the government and revenue generation drives by individual institutions, government needs to implement policies which will draw the private sector into ICT development. Government should work with the private sector and civil society to ensure affordable and sustainable access to ICT infrastructure.
3. There should be frequent workshops and training programs to train the teaching and non-teaching staff of higher learning institutions in order to make them competent to handle and operate the ICT infrastructure and services.

Conclusion

The increasing use of information and communication technologies has brought changes to teaching and learning at all levels of higher education systems (HES) leading to quality enhancements. Traditional forms of teaching and learning are increasingly being converted to online and virtual environments. There are endless possibilities with the integration of ICT in the education system. ICT enabled education will ultimately lead to the democratization of education. Teacher has to adapt continuous professional development in the educational uses of technology. There needs to be shared vision among the various stakeholders and a collaborative approach should be adopted. Care should be taken to influence the attitudes and beliefs of all the stakeholders. Also proper controls should be ensured so that accountability, quality assurance, accreditation and consumer protection are taken care of. ICT enabled education will ultimately lead to the democratization of education.

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