

ICT – BUILDING BLOCKS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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Abstract: A quality teaching through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) is an indispensable part of the contemporary world since world is moving with digital era.

Quality education is a biggest challenge before our country. It is mandatory to all education institutes to provide quality education. Traditionally, teaching and learning were based on oral communication between teachers and students. ICT has brought profound changes in this area in education era.

This work focuses on how ICT has become an integral part of education and how ICT works as catalyst in higher education.

Keywords: ICT, indispensable, challenges, contemporary, and catalyst.

I INTRODUCTION:

The global higher education scenario is rapidly transforming with great expansion and expectations. ICT can fulfill such expectations and speed up higher education expansions. ICT tools like, facebook, my space, radio, TV, cell phone, computer, hardware, software, satellite system, WIFI, YouTube, teleconferencing, audio conferencing, email, TV lessons, radio broadcast, interactive radio counseling, audio-video cassettes, CD-ROM, pen drives, internal networks, local area network (LAN) (b), external networks, wide area network (WAN), industrial robot, online learning, e-learning, e-coaching, e-journals, e-books, power point presentation, projectors etc play very important role to enrich teaching, learning and evaluation process.

Role of ICT:

ICT becomes an integral though invisible part of the daily personal productivity and professional practice. The implementations of ICT tools in the teaching, learning and evaluation process have found specific benefits (Bali, 2017). Techno-friendly teachers and students by using their e-skills enjoying ICT in teaching and learning process (V. Parvathi, 2017). The role of ICTs in higher education, government and private sectors becoming more and more cost effective and user friendly. ICT gives flexibility in learning and enhances learning efficiency by providing modern equipments. The Indian higher education sector which has included ICT is one of the largest in the world, just after USA and China (S.B. Munavalli 2017). Information literacy is a crucial skill in the pursuit of knowledge gained by ICTs. In the age of information and communication technology era students, teachers and professionals must use information tools effectively to gain knowledge beyond classrooms and textbooks to face the modern era.

Aim of this work is to investigate the role of ICT in higher education.

II METHODOLOGY: Primary and secondary data was collected from research journals, websites, books, articles etc.

In modern era, Indian schools and colleges are transforming from traditional education to smart schools and colleges where role of ICT has become sky rocking. ICT has given wings to empower the use of e-education related activities in the world of education.

In most of the developed countries the utility of ICT in educational institution and teaching institutions has become a priority in last two to three decades (Daniels J.S. 2002)

Worldwide, information has become a major economic commodity. In 21st century ICT plays an important part in revitalizing education system in India and it is an ongoing journey. The ICT's have the potential to accelerate, enrich and deepen the skills in the teaching and learning process. Integrating ICT in education seems to be an important for educational institutes of India. (M. V. N. Panchal, 2017)

Thirst for quality education:

ICT has become the building blocks of higher education. ICT tools have got teachers, students, government and private sectors businessman, common man on the same platform. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is established by the

University Grant Commission (UGC) of India to access and accredit institutions of higher education in our country. NAAC has come up with revised version in the manual for affiliated constituent colleges which is uploaded in July 2017. In this, use of ICT for quality teaching, learning and evaluation process has been given most importance. Education institutions with higher education must be geared up for the ICT. To promote the use of modern technology in higher education teaching and non-teaching staff should get proper training for teaching aids and administration.

Internal quality assurance cell (IQAC):

Higher education has gone through a critical change in our country. A quality of higher education in India has got prime importance by NAAC.

Teacher-student teaching-learning process has become more and more student friendly. Hence teacher training programs has become an integral part of the higher education by using ICT sources. Implementation of ICT in higher education assures quality education to fulfill modern world's students need (Sawant D.2015). NAAC has introduced IQAC in all educational institutes as post accreditation quality sustenance major. Enhancement of quality education is a regular process in all educational institutions. The establishment of IQAC by NAAC after the first cycle is a major step in higher education for long term quality standards curriculum planning and instant evaluation. India has launched world's first education satellite called EDUSAT in 2004 to impart distance learning to millions on Indians and have developed virtual digital classrooms (Rao, 2017).

Higher education system is changing from old chalk, talk and duster method by ICT (Sarkar S.2011). Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) Government of India has provided ICT platform for teachers and students known as **e-pathshala and swayamprabha**. Application is developed by HRD and IIT Kharagpur titles as 'National Digital Library of India' (NDLI) for mobile phones and tablets. Many schools and colleges are using various ICT tools in the classroom. '**Earn when you learn**' idea is gaining huge response due to ICTs. According to Choudhury K.R. 2017, higher education contributes to social and economic development through 4major channels:

- The formation of human capital
- The building of knowledge base
- The dissemination and use of knowledge
- The maintenance of knowledge.

IV CONCLUSION: Effectiveness of teaching depends on innovative ways used by teachers. ITC is very crucial tool which can change the mindset of teachers, parents and students. Due to ICT conceptual clarity is clearer by various illustrations available on internet. Teaching and learning becomes very interesting and interactive, parents too can participate with the help of ICT tools with educational institutions. The right way to accept ICT is to empower teachers and students with latest technology along with regular training to teachers to achieve best innovations in teaching.

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