TECHNOLOGY CHANGING THE FACE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN CURRICULUM PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

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Abstract : This study has been undertaken to keep pace with technology vis-à-vis tertiary education to keep abreast with latest trends and technologies going on in global competitive market. In this day and age the gap between prior gen and today's students has increasingly widened. Such situation can be found not only between same age people but also people of different age group and country. In order to change the current scenario of tertiary education, new technology must be harnessed and various innovative teaching methods must be adopted and implemented for the same.

IndexTerms - Gen, tertiary education, innovative teaching methods

I. INTRODUCTION

The contemporary era of technology has put tremendous change in context of higher education. Nearly two-thirds 63%) of survey respondents from the public and private sectors say that technological innovation will have a major impact on teaching methodologies over the next five years[1]. Apart from distance learning programs and other full time programs held at university level, some innovative teaching methods should be adopted in order to make teacher-taught relationship more impressive. Apart from teaching, teacher should act as a advisor, tutor, mentor and coach at the same time to enhance learning climate.

2. CURRICULUM AND IMPROVED TEACHING PRACTICES

For effectively translating the curriculum and improved teaching practices, there should be support of procedural and practical aspect. Effective teaching practices can be adopted at two levels:

2.1 At University Level

Any university extends its cooperation and strength to the faculty from time to time to meet the rising expectations of the prospective students which can be done by:

- Designing syllabus/curriculum for new courses/streams demanded in the colleges as per the changing scenario and global needs, thus providing a guideline to faculty as what to be taught for examinations.
- Providing question papers for the students to test their level of learning for promoting them to higher classes.
- To improvise professional growth of the faculty, various Refresher Courses, GOCs, Summer & Winter schools etc. should be made compulsory to be placed in higher promotional grades.
- Certain text books/reference books and research journals should be published by the university to benefit the college faculty and students.
- The University should give an opportunity to the University/College teachers as members of the Board of Studies/Syllabus Moderation Committees to contribute towards the content of the syllabus and other reforms from time to time.
- The heads of departments of the college must maintain a healthy relationship with the respective HODs in the university which enables them to solve all sorts of problems related to syllabus prescribed for the affiliated colleges. This practice paves a path for easy communication between the college & the university.

2.2 At Institutional Level

The college administration, the principal and the governing body should always at the back of the faculty to provide all sorts of support to create a healthy learning and teaching environment.

➢ **Academic Support**

- Any institution must provide an opportunity to faculty to impart education to the students thus satisfying their aptitude for academic pursuit.
- It should facilitates the faculty members for academic/professional growth by permitting them to attend Refresher Courses,

conferences, seminars, GOCs, meetings of professional bodies and peer groups etc.

- Governing Body should arranges funds to pay handsome salary, annual increments and other perks to relieve them from financial worries.
- For eligible cases, the recommendations and resolutions are sent to DPI(C) for revision of salaries, higher scales and better grades.
- Libraries and laboratories should be constantly upgraded as per requirements of the subjects and requests of the faculty members.
- Institution should sanctions long leave for who go to attend GOCs, refresher courses etc. & for those who go on leave on medical grounds and maternity purpose or due to some extraordinary circumstances.
- Financial assistance should be given for the publication of departmental journals and bulletins to promote research aptitude.
- The faculty should encourage adopting interdisciplinary approach wherever required.
- All institutions ample opportunity and freedom to use traditional as well as new innovative teaching learning methods.
- Their time table is made in such a way so that students and teachers can make best use of library & internet facility during the working hours.

2.3 Infrastructural Support
- A spacious& well equipped staff-room for faculty.
- A well-stocked and fully computerized library equipped with latest editions of books, e-books, e-journals and software, adequately subscribed research journals, magazines, newspapers and a well maintained archives section of old, rare and out of print books & journals.
- Well-furnished and upgraded laboratories with latest software, gadgets &apparatuses etc. such as computer & IT labs should be provided..
- For professional and skill-oriented subjects there should be proper labs in order to meet the practical needs of the students.

II. Efforts made by the institution to supplement the University's Curriculum

Besides chiseling their mental acumen, co-academic units should also be in the universities and college that help to broaden the outlook of the students, awaken their social consciousness & create inter-personal skills in them. These associations sensitize them towards the social issues and inspire them to take active participation in the various activities organized by these units for holistic development of students (Fig. 1).
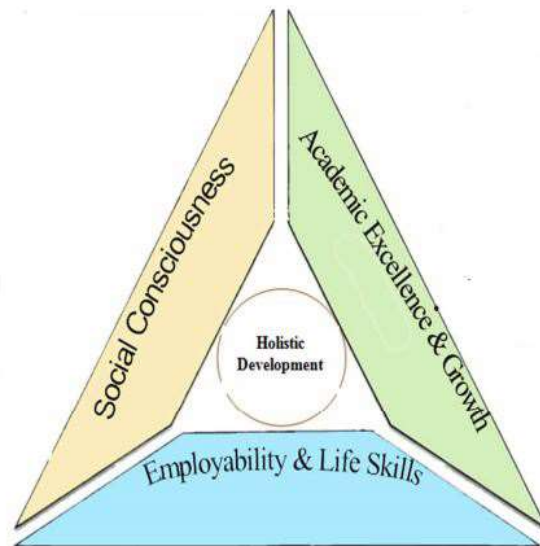

Figure 1

III. DIFFERENT WAYS THROUGH WHICH DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY IS CHANGING THE FACE OF EDUCATION

Online availability of programs: There are massive amount of online programs to make it possible for young learners to make full access of the online platform.

Digitalized environment: Check the backpack of many high school and college students, and you will find that physicals textbooks are slowly being replaced with iPads and various forms of devices connected to online media.

Mobile Learning: With the help of mobile learning, students and even teachers can make use of mobile learning environment with best possible mobile gadgets.

Teacher-taught relationship: Due to the increase in the presence of technology in the classroom, teachers now have more ability to personalize lessons, instructions, and projects for each group or child. By using devices and programs to distribute classwork and assignments.

Guidance and Instruction from Diverse Teachers: The increase of digital technology has also affected the availability and access to diverse teachers and instructors for students worldwide. One student can be present in a multi-cultural online classroom with teachers with origins from South Africa, England, Brazil, Spain, Russia, and Poland all at the same time. Teachers from different backgrounds and countries all bring their own unique perspectives, cultures, and languages to the table of learning.

Peer-to-Peer Learning environment: With an increase in access to online learning, inside and outside the classroom students can work together through online platforms and portals to exchange ideas. Students can express ideas and communicate through programs provided by their schools, and also informally through social media programs such as Facebook and Twitter.

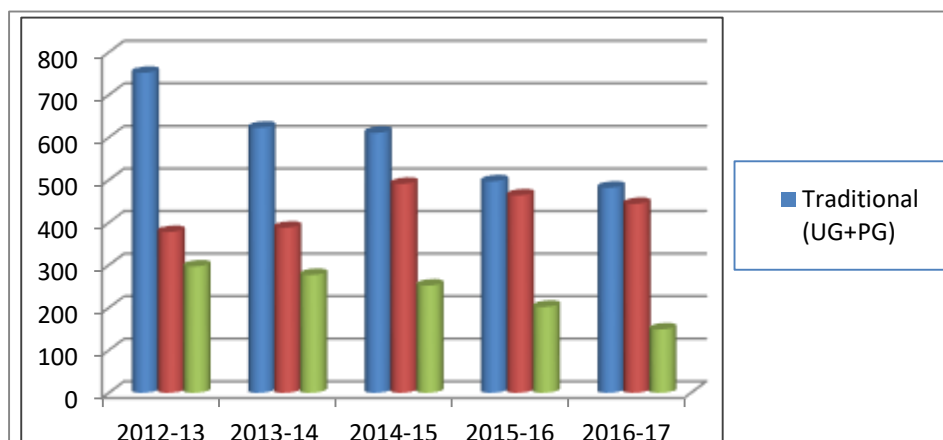## IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY OF SURROUNDING REGION OF KAPURTHALA CITY

The methodology section outline the plan and method that how the study is conducted. For research methodology, pattern of admission in traditional, Commerce and Information Technology was undertaken from 2 different institutions located in kapurthala city from last 5 years. It is concluded that the strength of students is higher in traditional courses, reflecting that these subjects are still popular and widely opted for.

The table (Table no. 1) also reveals that the trend for commerce stream is going upward because of its higher scope of employability .The commerce students can pursue their career by utilizing their skills in the thrust areas like Banking, Insurance, Marketing, Investment Analysis, Financial Analysis, Tax advisors and Teaching etc. They can also be self- employed as advisors in filing of returns, share market dealings, managing finance etc. These courses also help them in qualifying MBA, C.A., C.S., I.C.W.A. etc examinations.

The number of students opting for IT courses (Graph no. 2) has gone down because the scope of employability in this field is less in the surrounding region.

Programme	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Traditional (UG+PG)	752	623	611	497	482
Commerce(UG+PG)	378	388	491	464	444
IT(UG+PG)	297	277	252	202	149

Table no. 1 Pattern of Admission in Traditional, Commerce and IT during last 5 years:

Graph No. 1

V. INNOVATIVE PRACTICES FOR BETTERMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Innovative practices assist in the process mapping and process measurement of quality culture of institution. It depends upon the practices, developed and monitored as per any institutional needs. Some of the innovations which are useful are as:

Step to promote interdisciplinary teaching: Institution should keep the students busy and engaged in learning about other subjects, which are not opted for by them. Without taxing the routine time table, faculty members are motivated to prepare some special presentations on the topics which are not a part of the syllabi and such presentations are delivered to classes which are free due to their subject teacher being on leave. Thus this practice has benefitted the students doubly.

Student Adoption Scheme: Teacher-Taught relationship is given a strength and sanctity through Student Adoption Scheme. Under this scheme, Faculty Incharge of each group acts as a mentor, guide, facilitator, care taker and a counselor. The mentor should know the personal goals, hobbies, interests and academic level of the learner. She also tries to be reliever for her stresses, tensions or troubling points. Thus a personal rapport is maintained between the mentor and the learner

Promoting Career Oriented Add on Courses and Value Added Courses: Skill and Career oriented courses should be a regular practice. To meet the current job-situations, some Value Added courses such as Insurance & Risk Management, Food Preservation & Baking, and Painting & Sketching etc. should be made available to learners. These programmes improve the basic and essential skills of the students to make them employable and increase the job prospects for the learners in industries.

Linkages with other Clubs & Associations: Institutions should keep a link with various clubs, NGO's or industries like: TV & Radio Channels etc. It helps in the personality enrichment and knowledge enhancement of the learner.

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