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ROLE OF ICT IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Abstract: Since COVID-19, ICT has proven its importance in almost every aspect, particularly in the education field. For around 2 and half years, no activities like classroom teaching, conferences, workshops, and many more were not possible due to the pandemic situation, and still, everything was conducted through the ONLINE platform, and it's possible just because of the ICT [Information and Communication Technology].

Had ICT not been available the scenario would have worsened so far as the entire education system is concerned as it works as a powerful medium in it. ICT is a diversified set of technological tools and resources used to communicate, create, disseminate, store, and manage information. ICT adds more value to the learning processes and organization and administration of educational institutions

Keywords: COVID-19, Pandemic, Online, ICT, Diversified, Disseminate

Introduction:

Information Communication Technology (ICT) is an updated term for Information Technology (IT). It mainly provides access to information through telecommunication. In every level of education ICT enriches the system and one has to possess adequate knowledge and information about ICT before using it effectively. It is in a real sense contributing to the overall growth and development of the society.

Initially, education was a socially oriented activity empowering society. But since globalization, it became socio-commercial activity that started empowering society, distinctly through the combination of traditional and modern approaches. ICT in education is just an application of ICT in teaching and learning. In due course, it has transformed the educational society into a knowledge and information society resulting in transforming the economy to change to the knowledge economy supporting nations to create wealth by exploring knowledge. It's a proven fact that despite developments and upgradations in the technologies in the higher education teachers cannot be replaced being the core part of quality teaching. On the other hand, the only thing that can be changed, modified, and upgraded is the methodology and the technology.[1]

Today technology is the backbone of everything and through ICT; education has become even more effective and provides opportunities to all educational participants. Its exposure not only improved their knowledge, practical skills, and presentation skills but also their innovative capabilities to a great extent. It has even improvised teacher's delivery of information and above all adds value to the entire process. It also assisted the students to learn at their own pace and timing flexibility and above all it helped the country as a whole to uplift the educational system beyond classrooms and reach out to all sections of society in common even in situations like Covid.[2]

E-Learning:

These are the resources provided under ICT facilitating Teaching, Learning, Training, and Education. Different communication technologies like, internet-based learning, intranet (LAN) extranet (WAN), online education, computer-based training, DVD, YouTube video-based Learning, CD – ROM based learning, Webinars, Virtual classrooms, Mobile learning, custom e-learning, off-shelf e-learning. [3]

Blended Learning mode:

It's a combination of Teacher, Pedagogy, e-technology, and Learners. It is carried out face-to-face using ICT in classrooms. Here the teacher performs the role of facilitator through technological solutions. It also helps in boosting the curiosity of the learner to learn. [4]

Active Learning:

Constantly increasing ICT use has helped learners in many ways as learning according to their desires, needs, and requirements. Online platforms have given a new angle to it. Traditional learning concepts are nowadays getting outdated and ICT is providing many new ways to Facilitators as well as learners. [5]

Mobile Learning:

Smart phones these days are minicomputers and facilitate all academic participants in many ways. It has proven as one of the most competitive modes of educational learning tools during the pandemic. [6]

Findings and Conclusions:

- ❖ It has been found that ICT plays a role as a catalyst in promoting education and has an impact on the process of learning. It also helped in enhancing the student's performance.
- ❖ ICT has opened the doors to everyone despite of their levels, places, and backgrounds.
- ❖ Acquiring new skills becomes easy
- ❖ The students and facilitators can now stretch themselves beyond the walls of traditional classrooms
- ❖ As compared to other sectors the impact of ICT is still low in the education sector and the prominent reason behind this is the insufficient funding for technological adoption and upgradation, Lack of required training and motivation for the teachers, trained manpower, Time constraints, and lack of required infrastructure in rural area.
- ❖ ICTs are being accepted at larger levels in the classrooms these days. It is also seen that on the internet too much garbage in terms of unwanted sites and social platforms is available becoming responsible for destroying human values, ethics, and culture of the society.
- ❖ Everything is available at the fingertip and the world has become the Global Village

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