

USE OF ICT IN DEVELOPING EFFECTIVENESS OF TEACHING SKILLS FOR TEACHERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Neomi Padma Kumar Norah Ruth Kumar Dr. Alka Pushpa Nisha

Asstt.Prof. of English
Govt.P.G.College,
Garhakota (M.P.)

Asstt.Prof. of English
C.S.A. Govt. P.G. Nodal College,
Shore(M.P)

Asstt. Prof. of English
Govt. P.G.College,
Deori, Sagar (M.P)

Education is a backbone of any nation. The introduction of ICT in education has profound implications for the whole education process especially in dealing with the key issues of universal access to education, equity in education, the delivery of quality learning and reaching, teachers' professional development and more efficient education management, governance and administration. Introducing ICT as a tool to support the education sector has initiated substantial discussions since the end of last century.

Indian Higher Education:An overview

According to the census 2011, there are 14.6 million students in India under going Higher Education. There has been a sufficient rise in enrollment from rural population which have been expected to reach 12.84% by 2020. Women enrollment in Higher Education is currently 6.1 million and is expected to grow to 12.15 million by 2020.

(Source: UGC Higher Education in India 2008-11th Five year Plan Vol. III)

Current estimates indicates that spends on Higher Education in India to be 46200 crores rupees. Almost 92% of the spend by Private institutions and are for professional courses and the share of Public institutions is 8% which are on general courses.

(Source :Ey Analysis)

Education is the third largest expenditure group for an average Indian household. Nearly 55% of Indian middle class households have started saving for higher education of their children.

(Source : Max New York life. NCAER Survey)

FICCI report on Higher Education 2011 has noted some of the key challenge for India in terms of Access, Equity and Quality of Higher Education as, insufficient infrastructure to meet the growing demand of Higher Education. Deficient physical infrastructure, ill-equipped libraries and outdated curricula continue to plague our higher education system.

ICT in Higher Education in India.

ICT has unique importance in the educational system and social transactions. Use of ICT for promoting education and development has always been a part of policy and plan documents on education. The government at both central and state are favoring inclusion of IT/ICT in education. However there is significant disparity in ICT usage between institution in urban, semi-urban and rural parts of the country. The rapid increase in mobile penetration and evolution of 4G wireless technologies such as W.Max/LTE it is expected that broadband connectivity issues is resolved by the end of the 12th five-year-plan (2012-2017) in semi-urban/rural parts of the country.

The use of ICT in Higher Education in India is growing steadily. In order to improve GER in higher education by 5 percentages during 11th five year plan, Indian Government commenced the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) project and allotted a budget of 5 billion rupees, which has benefited in teaching and learning process in any-time any-where mode. Content generation and connectivity along with provision for access devices for institutions and learners are the major components of the mission. Nearly 600 universities configured under the scheme and more than 21000 colleges have been prodded VPN connectivity.

National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL). Here open courseware is started to provide video lectures of well-known professors of Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science (IISs) in almost all the engineering courses.

The National Knowledge Network (NKN) has launched air initiative to cover 1000 institutions besides providing digital campuses, video-conference classrooms, wireless hotspots, laptops/desktops to all students of professional/science courses and Wi-Fi connectivity in hostels.

Indian government has started SWAYAM (StudyWebs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) in 2015 which will provide free courses in varied Indian languages to the learners.

University Grants Commission (UGC) of India set up the Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC) as one of the inter university centers to cater the needs of Higher Education through the use of Television along with the ICT.

Many other initiative to deliver free, easily accessible and good quality education through the use of ICT have been taken viz. E-Gyankosh, e-PG Pataskala, National Digital Library etc.

Impact of ICT on Teaching:

The use of ICT has not only enhanced learning environment but has also prepared next generation for future lives and careers. When a syllabus or curriculum is designed for college level certain aims and objectives are kept in mind. An important recent development in the

methodology has been shift of emphasis from teacher-centered to learner-centered. Hence it is important that a teacher of Higher Education should become aware of his role as facilitator of helper in learning process. Teaching a subject should encourage an active participation of learners. The shift from traditional method to ICT has clear impact on learners and teachers as well. In Teacher using ICT there is an improvement in the level and quality of preparation of teaching material. This material once prepared could be easily updated and revised to suit the needs of different courses or student group. The lectures and other presentations through ICT become more dynamic and varied, whether through the simple use of presentational software or a multimedia web linked event. The posting of lecture notes for students to read in advance, gives freedom to concentrate on important concepts or issues within the content and allows students to come better informed and because they are free from notes taking they can be better engaged.

Conclusion:-

The use of ICT in teaching is a boon not only to learners but also to the teachers as it transcends to boundaries of the classroom. The changed pool of teachers with changed responsibilities and skill sets for future teaching involving high levels of ICT and the need for more facilitative than didactic teaching roles (Littlejohn et al., 2002)

Though the ICT aided teaching has proven to be very effective it has its drawbacks too. Lack of ICT tools, lack of computer knowledge and connective problems are some of them. But with the governmental support there can be new strategies introduced in implanting ICT aided teaching.

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