



USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY IN TEACHER EDUCATION

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Abstract

Education is a very socially oriented activity and quality education has traditionally been associated with strong teachers having high degrees of personal contact with students and technologies. Information and communication technologies (ICT's) have become common place entities in all aspects of life. The integration of ICT into teaching-learning practices is becoming more and more important and this importance will continue to grow and develop in the 21st century. The focus of this paper is to examine the role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in higher education. There has been an unprecedented growth in the use of ICTs in teaching, research and extension activities. The sudden boom in Information Technology has transformed the way how knowledge is disseminated today, one of the changes it has brought about is the way how teachers interact and communicate with the students and vice-versa.

Introduction and rationale of the Study:

In this day and age, the role of technology in improving the lives of the people an enhancement of quality education cannot be underestimated. Most people, including minorities, more than ever before are now buying goods and services online, sending messages across the globe to loved ones, sending emails to donor agencies for support and receiving instant replies. It has been suggested that information and communication technologies (ICTs) can and do play a number of roles in education. These include providing a catalyst for rethinking teaching practice; developing the kind of graduates and citizens required in an information society; improving educational outcomes and enhancing and improving the quality of teaching and learning. Things are changing around us very dramatically, very quickly. The world is becoming more interconnected, the environment is becoming less stable, and technology is continuously altering our relationship to information. Changing global conditions demand that we rethink what, but even more important, how and where we learn. We need education for the 21st century. Today our education system needs to improve the quality of education through information technology. Technology has revolutionized the way we think, work and play. Technology, when integrated into the curriculum, revolutionizes the learning process. Technology and interactive multimedia are more conducive to project-based learning. Students are engaged in their learning using these powerful tools, and can become creators and critics instead of just consumers; technology integration is the necessity of today's students to have 21st century skills.

Use of ICT for Students:

Students use information technologies to:

- Improve the ways of Learning in new learning fashions.



- Extend the ability and skills of applying their learning in real situation.
- Working in groups for cooperative and collaborative learning.
- Developing self-learning habits at their own pace and time.
- Learn with the teacher rather than by the teacher.
- Develop inquiry-learning habits.
- Use right information at right time to achieve right objective.
- Exchange learning experiences and information with others students and teachers living anywhere in the world.
- Present the material in more interesting and attractive way.
- Guide and help students in searching the qualitative material.
- Make best use of time.
- Provide individual instruction.
- Prepare learning material for students, rather teaching in conventional situations.
- Solve the study problems of student.

Information Technology provides the opportunities of global interactions. Students can learn from interactions with the information, interface, teachers and co-learners using global networks.

Use of Ict For Teachers:

ICT can be useful for a teacher in the following ways:

- It can be helpful in the professional development of the teachers. A teacher can learn various skills with the help of information and communication technologies. He can do various certification programmes run by the famous international educational institutions.
- We know that research is a difficult process and collection of data is the most difficult stage of a research. With the use of Information and Communication Technologies online data collection and surveys have become very easy. A teacher can get responses easily.
- A teacher can increase his domain of knowledge with the help of e-journals, e-magazines and e-library that can be achieved only through the use of information and communication technologies. He can also participate in discussions and conferences with the experts of his subject to improve his knowledge and skills through audio and video conferencing.
- With the help of ICT a teacher can learn modern methods of teaching. He can work with the students on various project and assignments. It also helps in providing teaching contents, home works etc. With the use of Power Point presentations he can make the students understand complex processes and theories.
- He can easily reach to which students whenever and wherever they want.
- He may participate in various in service training programmes and workshops which are essential for his professional development with the help of Information and communication technologies.
- ICT can also help him the counseling students to solve their problems.
- ICT makes him able to guide students about the materials available on internet, e-books, e-journals, e-magazines and social sites like linked-in which are helpful in better learning.



- Evaluation is an important part of educational systems. It informs about the strengths and weaknesses of the system. ICT also helps a teacher in better evaluation.

Summary and Conclusions

From the above descriptions it is clear that information and communication technology has changed the educational paradigm as well as modern educational system. To achieve the educational objectives it is essential to be familiar with ICT and use it properly.

Similarly wider availability of best practices and best courses material in education, which can be shared by means of ICT, can foster better teaching. However there exist some risks and drawbacks with introducing ICT in education which have to be mitigated. Successful implementation of ICT to lead change is more about influencing and empowering teachers and supporting them in their engagement with students in learning rather than acquiring computer skills and obtaining software and equipment. Also proper controls and licensing 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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