

Information and Communication technology (ICT) in Education

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Abstract: Education plays an important role in building the society and determines the standard of a society. The quality education helps to empowering the nation in all aspects by providing new thoughts, the ways of implementation of various technologies and so many such things. There are a lot of effective teaching and learning methodologies in practice. In the present context, Science and technologies are the effective ways to increase the student's knowledge. Hence, comes the role of ICT in education sector. The paper tries to introduce ICT and discuss its role in education sector. It also looks into the impact of ICT on education due to its mass use today.

Keywords: *Education and society; ICT in education; mass use of ICT, impact of ICT*

Introduction:

Nowadays, we live in a global world which is a knowledge based society. Knowledge is power, economy and strength of an individual and asset of a nation. Actually, there has been a tremendous explosion in its quality as well as growth as we want the new technologies to gain access and properly use this fast-growing knowledge.

Education plays an important role in building the society. It determines standard of a society. The quality education helps to empowering the nation in all aspects by providing new thoughts, the ways of implementation of various technologies and so many such things.

It is very necessary to examine the quality of education in a society. There are lot of

effective teaching and learning methodologies in practice. In the present day context, science and technologies are the effective ways to increase the student's knowledge. Here comes the role of ICT in education sector. Being an academician one cannot imagine education without ICT today. Nowadays, ICT plays important role in the process of integrating technology into the educational activities.

What is ICT?

ICT stands for information and communication technologies and are defined, for the purposes of this primer, as a "diverse set of technologies, tools and resources used to communicate, and to create, disseminate, store, and manage information. Information and communication technologies are an umbrella term that includes all technologies for the manipulation and communication of information. ICT considers all the uses of digital technology that already exists to help individuals, business and organization." It is difficult to define ICT because it is difficult to keep up the changes they happen so fast.

ICT is concerned with the storage, retrieval, manipulation, transmission or receipt of digital data. It is not a fact as evidenced by developments from other countries that ICT as a sector can contribute immensely to the national GDP of a nation and that ICT, acting as an

enabler, can result in improved market competitiveness of a nation's products and services. ICT can impact positively on governance and other sectors of the economy.

In recent years there has been a groundswell of interest in how computers and the internet can best be harnessed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of education at all levels and in both formal and non-formal settings. But ICTs are more than just these technologies- older technologies such as the telephone, radio and television although not given less attention, has a longer and richer history as instructional tools.

Impact of ICT in Education:

ICT has a major impact on education in today's society. This has had an impact on how people study and how it may have improved the way people learn through ICT. It is generally said that ICT can empower learners and teachers, promote change and also increase individual skills through ICT. It will help transforming teaching and learning processes from being highly teacher-dominated to student-centered and this transformation will result in increased learning gains for students, creating and allowing learners to develop their creativity, information reasoning skills, communication skills, and mainly ICT skills such as using word processing, educational

software that help to develop the individual's skills. This can be linked to the future as there will be more job opportunities if people have the necessary skills for ICT and this means people will be more successful.

Most jobs today require some use of ICT skills as almost every task is done on the computer through ICT and this can be very important on improving people's learning making it very easy.

Nowadays, the role of ICT, especially internet plays an important role in education sector, especially in the process of empowering the technology into the educational activities. Education sector can be the most effective sector to anticipate and eliminate the negative impact of ICT. Being aware of the significant role of ICT (internet) in our life, particularly in the educational activities, the concerned authorities should be wise enough in implementing the use of ICT.

Schools use a diverse set of ICT tools to communicate, create, disseminate, store, and manage information. In some contexts, ICT has also become integral to the teaching-learning interaction, through such approaches as replacing chalkboards with interactive digital whiteboards, using students' own smart phones or other devices for learning during class time,

and the "flipped classroom" model where students watch lectures at home on the computer and use classroom time for interactive exercises.

When teachers are digitally literate and trained to use ICT, these approaches can lead to higher order of thinking skills, provide creative and individualized options for students to express their understandings, and leave students better prepared to deal with ongoing technological change in society and the workplace.

The emergence of ICTs as a learning technology unknowingly insists to think on alternative theories for learning. The conventional teaching process has focused on teaching, planning and leading students through a series of instructional sequences to achieve desired outcomes. This way of teaching follows the planned transmission of knowledge through some interaction with the content as a means to consolidate the knowledge acquisition. The use of ICTs provide many opportunities through their provision and support for resource based, students centered learning. It acts to support various aspects of knowledge construction and as more and more students employ ICTs in their learning process.

Importance of ICT in Education:

Smart technology is the known term that is widely being used in every step of life. Smartphone's, Tablets, Gadgets, Smart Television etc. are the products of smart technology that have made human life smarter, easier and accessible. Smart technology has not only enhanced the way of living but also become an integral part of everyone's life.

Today, with the smart technology, information can be accessed from anywhere using smart phones and gadgets. All this is made possible with the help of information and communication technology. ICT has been influencing our lives in the recent years in the field of education, healthcare, and business etc.

Computer-based learning:

Computer-based learning is one of the modules of school-communication tool that helps students to enhance their learning skills through computer knowledge and enables them to obtain large amount of information from various websites. After two decades of introducing computer to school, education has been revolutionized ever since then. It reduces time spent on mechanical tasks such as rewriting, producing graphs and increased the scope of searching. It not only helps in finding

information making it easier to share with others.

Internet:

Internet tools like email, social network, newsgroups and video transmission have connected the world like never before. Students can even communicate not only using emails and social networking groups that provide knowledge based information but also through distance learning online and also talk to experts online. Notes reading, tutorials, assignments can be received by students from anywhere. The internet provides major information in texts, audios, videos and graphics which can be accessed by the individual. Online learning allows students to interact with each other and faculty to interact with students.

Video conferencing:

This is yet another medium of communication wherein students can communicate with other students to become active participants in their own learning. Video conferencing is a powerful communication tool that has the potential to change the way we deliver information to students. It is just one of today's integrative technologies that empower students to prepare for a better future.

Conclusion:

Latest technology can sprout novel education activities in addition to enhancing existing education system. The use of ICT in education adds value to teaching and learning by enhancing effectiveness of learning. It added a new dimension to learning that was not previously available. After the inception of ICT in schools, students found learning in an enhanced environment more stimulating and engaging than in a traditional classroom

environment. This rising ubiquity of ICT has meant that we must monitor its role in education. It is necessary for decision makers like education minister, school administrator and educational institutions to be sufficiently insightful about methodologies that enable the implementation of information and communication technology in educational institutions.

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