

**INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AND IT'S RELEVANCE
WITH LEARNING EMPOWERMENT OF COLLEGE STUDENTS**

**DR. VINEET JAIN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN COMMERCE
S.A.JAIN COLLEGE**

Abstract

Information Communication Technology is a catalyst of change and a major power to influence every aspect of the society in the globe. It brought drastic change in work place, working conditions, business, entertainment, handling information, exchanging information, education, teaching methods, learning approaches, banking transaction, payment methods, consumer selection, decision making, scientific research and in accessing the information in any sector. This study has been focusing to know the perception of learners' impact in usage of ICT devices in integration with traditional education. Random sampling was used to collect the first hand data and benefits and challenges faced by the learners was analysed using the Likert scale technique. The learners has revealed that due to integration of ICT in education the learners has benefited with Knowledge and skill development, Personalized learning ,Creation of new jobs, Progress Tracking , Readiness of Educational resources, Environment-friendly. The learners also expressed their challenges in usage of ICT such as lot of health hazards, Technological Difficulties, lack of teacher contact, Decreased zest for listening normal class, Lack of student regular feedback, Lack of attentiveness. Important fact to pointout that teachers play a vital role in change in curriculum, teaching learning , enrich quality of leaners , to build the society and make all the changes to feel comfortable. So, It is important for teachers to impart the ICT skill among them which enable them to create a competency among the learners to face the competitive world. It is mandatory for the policy makers to understand the barriers of cost effectiveness of ICT implementation in institution so it is mandatory for them to make viability to explore the changes in education through ICT.

Keywords: - Skill Development, Personalized learning, Progress Tracking, Readiness of Educational resources

Introduction

A major catalyst in accelerating the use of technology tools and digital platforms to improve learning was the ongoing competitive digital environment, which has consistently endorsed the digital revolution in the education sector in India. Due to the implementation of Indian Educational Policy, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) schemes has devised the education sector to focus on digital revolution. In the digital revolution in industry, it is mandatory for the education sector also to enter into the infrastructure development for digital world entrance in education field. In India, it was necessary for the institution to adopt the Information Communication Technology (ICT) initiatives to make the education services to be provided to students in a uninterrupted manner. This paper aims to know the challenges and benefits faced by the Learners in digital environment.

Objectives

- To know the socio economic profile of the Learners
- To identify the benefits felt by the learners in ICT environment
- To find the Challenges faced by the learners in ICT environment
- To provide suggestion in overcoming the challenges to improve the ICT Usage in India.

Review of Literature

For having a feasible synchronization of class, Teacher, student and infrastructure ICT play a vital role. A study in Uganda clearly states there is an impact on ICT Utilisation (Ali, Haolader & Muhammad (2013)

Proper usage of ICT devices has made the quality improvement in teaching learning practices. Researcher state that modern tools supports the teaching learning quality in instruction and career advancement in student as well as faculty. Meenakshi (2014)

Research Methodology

To meet the objectives the method of data collection was planned to formulate the research design. To analyse the previous research articles related to the study and to find the statistical data, secondary data was used. As first hand information, to collect the data, primary data was used by framing a questionnaire to be circulate among learners through mail and in person by Likert scale techniques.

Area of sample

The respondents are students studying in different department of rural colleges in kurukshetra arts, commerce and science colleges.

Sample size

The questionnaire was collected randomly around 15 arts, commerce and Science College in kurukshetra. Totally 780 questionnaires were Completely filled for analysing the above said objectives.

Analysis and Interpretation

The study analyse the opinion of learners benefits and challenges in using the diverse set of ICT devices which helps to integrate the teaching-learning interaction, through replacing chalkboards with interactive digital whiteboards, student using smartphones, students using ICT 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 more interactive exercises.

Table 1: Classification of Respondents on the Gender Basis

S.No	Gender	No of Respondent	Percentage
	Male	398	51
	Female	382	49
	Total	780	100

Source: Primary Data

The above table reveals that 51 % of the respondents are male and 49% of the respondents are female.

Table 2: Classification of Respondents on the Basis of the Domicile

S.No	Place	No of Respondent	Percentage
1	Rural	525	67
2	Urban	58	7
3	Semi Urban	197	26
	Total	780	100

Source: Primary Data

From the table it is found that 26% of the respondents reside in semi urban area, 67% of the respondents belong to rural area and only 7% of the respondents belong to urban area.

Table 3: Average Rating of learners on benefits felt by the learners in ICT environment

ICT adoption among students has supported their quality improvement in knowledge skill and practical ability due to the Integration of the ICT devices with the traditional teaching practices

S.No	Benefits	SA	A	N	DA	SDA	Total Score	Avg Score	Rank
1	Environment-friendly	1725	1296	201	46	21	3289	1612	6
2	Cost-Effective Education	1390	1016	456	102	45	3009	1475	17
3	Augmented Access to Education	1160	1708	225	60	16	3169	1553	15
4	Effective Learning	1875	1092	177	84	31	3259	1598	8
5	Gain confidence and Social credibility	1345	1564	252	38	17	3216	1576	12
6	Bridging the cultural divide	1435	1468	204	92	12	3211	1574	13
7	Creation of new jobs	2005	1204	87	38	30	3364	1649	3
8	Readiness of Educational resources	1725	1368	120	60	23	3296	1616	5
9	Student engagement	1630	1100	237	80	60	3107	1523	16
10	Progress Tracking	1495	1556	228	24	4	3307	1621	4
11	Improved teaching and learning techniques.	1725	1132	207	104	31	3199	1568	11
12	Easy connect among student and teacher	1575	1376	231	40	24	3246	1591	9

13	Enhance education quality , practical skill and efficiency	1800	1136	153	102	34	3225	1581	10
14	Facilitates Collaboration	1775	1252	147	78	24	3276	1606	7
15	Personalized Learning	1945	1156	258	20	6	3385	1659	2
16	Building Peer Communities	1690	1116	267	58	45	3176	1557	14
17	Knowledge and Skill development	2260	1036	138	24	11	3469	1700	1

Source: Primary Data

The researcher has found the opinion on learners perception for the benefits felt by the learners in ICT environment. The learners has ranked that knowledge and skill development as first priority, they have felt that integration of ICT and traditional practices has increased learning gains for students, creating and allowing the opportunities for learners to develop their creativity, problem-solving abilities, informational reasoning skills, communication skills, and other higher-order thinking skills. Personalized learning has ranked second position which support the identification of learners a unique set of talents and interests through the ICT, Third position is occupied by the Creation of new jobs which shows that learners feel that ICT has enable the innovative and creative jobs in all the fields, Progress Tracking occupies the fourth position which supports to enhance the differentiation opportunities available and to know the strength of their knowledge and skill required. Fifth position is captured by Readiness of Educational resources at 24 / 7 which helps the students to refer and enrich their knowledge at their own time, Environment-friendly, Facilitates Collaboration, Effective Learning, Easy connect among student and teacher, Enhance education quality , practical skill and efficiency, Improved teaching and learning techniques., Gain confidence and Social credibility, Bridging the cultural divide, Building Peer Communities, Augmented Access to Education, Student engagement, Cost-Effective Education are the factors ranked the consecutive position based on the learners perception.

Table 4: Average Rating of learners’ challenges faced by the learners in ICT environment

ICT create responsibility to progress the education system but has more challenges. To enhance the quality of the education among students it paves the way to assist many supports as mentor. With all these features ICT is facing many challenges to implement the nature of education in integration with traditional education.

S.No	Challenges	SA	A	N	DA	SDA	Total Score	Avg Score	Rank
1	Internet connection / learning adds on /Cost	790	672	417	252	189	2320	1137	14
2	A lot of health hazards	1620	1148	237	174	3	3182	1560	1
3	Decreased zest for listening normal class	1785	900	129	196	57	3067	1503	4
4	Decrease Conceptual Learning	615	660	675	292	121	2363	1158	13
5	Less Interaction	1625	968	102	264	47	3006	1474	9
6	Lack of student regular feedback	1355	1424	69	156	52	3056	1498	5
7	Lack of attentiveness	1690	980	117	188	64	3039	1490	6
8	Resource Intensive	1470	1156	177	170	53	3026	1483	8
9	Lack of discipline	1340	996	294	148	91	2869	1406	10
10	Plagiarism	1130	1192	255	172	85	2834	1389	11
11	Missing Social Interaction	990	1312	288	128	94	2812	1378	12
12	Lack of Teacher Contact.	1620	1104	219	136	39	3118	1528	3
13	Poor Time Management	1330	1284	243	128	48	3033	1487	7
14	Technological Difficulties.	1430	1408	189	106	26	3159	1549	2

Source: Primary Data

Learners has opinioned that, they are facing many challenges in integration of ICT in traditional learning. The learners has ranked the top position as lot of health hazards due to bad posture and sitting for long periods of time on usage of ICT devices during learning. Second position is occupied by Technological Difficulties due to budget limitations, less professional training, poor network Infrastructure, resistance to change, no systems in place to utilize technology in curriculum, unreliable devices and software. It is a fact that teachers are at the center of curriculum change and they control the teaching and learning process. Third position is occupied by lack of teacher contact due to different learning abilities and capacities it is difficult to have a common teaching concept in computer-based learning. Decreased zest for listening normal class, Lack of student regular feedback, Lack of attentiveness, Poor Time Management, Resource Intensive, Less Interaction, Lack of discipline, Plagiarism, Missing Social Interaction, Decrease Conceptual Learning, Internet connection / learning adds on /Cost have occupied the consecutive position in challenges faced by learners in utilising the ICT in their learning.

Finding

- Gender analysis on role of ICT among learners in colleges above reveals that 51 % of the respondents are male and 49% of the respondents are female.
- Domicile analysis in this study shows that 26% of the respondents reside in semi urban area, 67% of the respondents belong to rural area and only 7% of the respondents belong to urban area.
- Opinion on learners perception on benefits felt by the them in ICT environment. The learners has ranked the following parameters in the consecutive positions : Knowledge and skill development, Personalized learning Creation of new jobs, Progress Tracking , Readiness of Educational resources, Environment-friendly, Facilitates Collaboration, Effective Learning, Easy connect among student and teacher, Enhance education quality , practical skill and efficiency, Improved teaching and learning techniques., Gain confidence and Social credibility, Bridging the cultural divide, Building Peer Communities, Augmented Access to Education, Student engagement, Cost-Effective Education are the factors ranked the consecutive position based on the learners perception.
- Opinion on Challenges felt by learners in using the ICT are positioned in the order consecutively as lot of health hazards, Technological Difficulties, lack of teacher contact, Decreased zest for listening normal class, Lack of student regular feedback, Lack of attentiveness, Poor Time Management, Resource Intensive, Less Interaction, Lack of discipline, Plagiarism, Missing Social Interaction, Decrease Conceptual Learning, Internet connection / learning adds on /Cost .

Suggestion

Rapid developments in information and communication technologies (ICTs) now a days have resulted in vital changes in the way the communication and operations are functioning. There is a great impact on educational and training needs, both in terms of the content and the delivery of educational and training services provided. Lack of resources within the educational sector is a interference in the implementation of ICT. With adequate facilities and resources for effective implementation of ICT it will be more

efficient to use the ICT for

- More number of workshop/ seminar/ conference can be conducted to make the learners to know the usage of ICT in integration with traditional education.
- To build teachers' knowledge to a sufficient level, boosting confidence in the process, training and train them to feel comfortable in usage of ICT in teaching.
- To know the learner's level, regular meeting to be conducted and according the resources can be shared for the learners to learn the materials.
- Create a positive learning environment for teachers and create innovative jobs to update the technologies in education
- Technological pedagogical content knowledge (TPACK) additionally requires an understanding of how technologies can support pedagogies for specific domains.

Conclusion

It is obvious that teachers, textbooks and physical contact class are still considered fundamental in the educational system. A clear representation on role of ICT in integration of traditional education to excel a strong potential to reach a quality teaching learning process. Lack of resources within the educational sector educational is a hindrance in the implementation of ICT in developing countries. It is important for the government to focus on the development of both hardware and software technologies in the educational institutions. Each technology has different potential depending on its usage. The ICT should be firmly embedded into the teaching and learning so that the teaching and learning process may be improved with the help of the modern technology. Students and teachers have to impart the ICT skills which ease the change in education systems for the better.

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