

Role of ICT in Education

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Introduction:

ICT has become an integral part of today's teaching learning process. Countries across the world are using ICT in facilitating information, dissemination and communication in all areas of education and training. Effective use of technology can motivate students, make our classes dynamic and interesting, and renew teacher enthusiasm as they learn new skills and techniques. Technology is also helping the students to understand any abstract concepts clearly. The integration of ICT's in teaching in general and teacher education in particular is the need of the hour. The use of ICT's can make substantial changes both for teaching and training mainly in two ways:

Firstly, the rich representation of information changes learner's perception and understanding of the context. Secondly, the vast distribution and easy access to information can change relationships between teachers and students. ICT's can also provide powerful support for educational innovation.

Why do we need ICT?

The face of classroom is changing The teachers should prepare to keep up with technology utility in the classroom. ICT is not only an essential tool for teachers in their day to day work, but also offers them opportunities for their own professional development. In conventional teaching, most of the time is consumed for the input output and less time is left for the actual process. But in the teaching with ICT the input and output time is reduced and the process time is increased. When the process time is increased, time of students' activities, discussion, correlation with other subjects, brainstorming, learning etc. will increase.

Approaches of ICT:

Following are the approaches of ICT which can be used in classroom training:

- 1) **Integrated approach:** This aims to planning the use of ICT within the subject to enhance particular concepts and skills and improve pupils' achievement. This involves, selecting the suitable ICT resources which contribute to the aim and objectives of the curriculum.
- 2) **Enhancement approach:** This focus on the use of an ICT resource will enhance the existing subject matter through some aspects of the lessons and tasks. Eg. using an electronic whiteboard for presenting a theory on a topic.
- 3) **Complementary approach:** This aims at using an ICT resource to empower the students' learning eg. by enabling them to improve their class work by taking notes on the computer or by sending home way by email to the teacher from home.

To effectively harness the power of ICT technologies to improve learning, the following conditions must be met:

- Students and teachers must have sufficient access to digital technologies, and access to internet in their classrooms, colleges and higher education institutions.
- High quality, meaningful, and culturally responsive digital content must be available for teachers and learners.
- Teachers must have the knowledge and skills to use the new age digital tools and resources to help students achieve high academic standards.

Challenges faced by ICT:

ICT techniques also face some challenges in rapid adoption in India. Primarily because there is a need of infrastructure (internet, computers etc.) to use ICT methods and lack of infrastructure in rural India proves to be a hurdle. Further there is a lack of trained ICT teachers which also poses a challenge. Sometimes the imaginative power of students also go down as they can readily find a lot of information readily available and not read multiple books to research a given topic. This has the potential to limit creativity and prevent creation of new content.

Future of ICT (Information Communication Technology) techniques:

Growing internet access is helping in the explosion of ICT techniques. With the accessibility to multiple blogs, websites, Google information, Youtube videos, Radio and TV lessons, Slideshare and e-content repositories etc., ICT is taking off in the country. Government abled bodies like IGNOU, NCERT etc. are also actively promoting online educational content. The upcoming trend in the field of ICT is the launch of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses).

MOOCs are recent developments that is reshaping the trend of higher education on the web. It represents an emerging technology of online teaching, based on the philosophy of connectivism. ‘Massive’ refers to the large number of students that can be engaged in the online course, and its ‘Openness’ is associated with software user registration to anyone who has access to web, open curriculum, learning resources and evaluation. Common MOOC providers are Coursera, EdX, Udacity, Khan Academy, IGNOU Open Courses, Udemy, Future Learn, MingleBox, Swayam etc. Blending of open education resources with the current methods of learning will help us in achieving great educational success.

Conclusion:

To effectively use ICT techniques for education in India, it is very important that teachers should increase the use of ICT for preparation of training material. The school management should encourage ICT by providing infrastructure and motivating teachers to adopt ICT. Teachers should be provided training to adopt ICT. There can be some collaboration with education institutes which specialize in the evangelizing ICT modes of training. Further, some seminars and workshops can be conducted throughout the country on “the use of ICT in the teaching-learning process”. If we all work together, and promote ICT, we can make more and more Indians enter mainstream economy by improving their skillset.

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