

ICT IN EDUCATION

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Abstract

In recent years, rapid technological and economic developments have brought about significant changes in societies and their associated labor markets, leading to the emergence of knowledge societies and economies. As part of the changes they are experiencing, companies are increasingly seeking employees who have the ability to utilize information and communication technologies (I.C.T) effectively in their everyday work and who have the skills to maximize the potential of I.C.T to enhance productivity in the workplace. The emergence of technology has been further applied to information, which has revolutionized the process of the transmission of information.

Introduction

ICT Stands for Information communication and Technology which individually has very narrow meaning but when they join together they are able to bring the revolution in education system. The Information Communication and Technology generates the number of different ways of flow of instruction or sharing of information in particular field. It is also a means of sharing of data or Knowledge of individual through technology or by means of technology. ICT refers to technologies that provide access to information through telecommunications. It is similar to Information Technology (IT), but focuses primarily on communication technologies. This includes the Internet, wireless networks, cell phones, and other communication mediums.

Meaning of Information Technology

Sharing and interchanging information such as knowledge mental skills, motor skills and attitudes through the use of mass media especially in electronics.

Achieving success in this sharing and interchanging through communication which consists of receiving, hearing or seeing, accepting as nothing can change. Data processors are the key components in Information Technology in the processing of data. In the Communication Technology, at present, the wealth of information that is being transferred across the Internet is impressive. Web (www) browsers, email and news groups have been established to allow people to access, send or retrieve information across the world. The Internet browsers like Netscape and MS Internet Explorer enable searching, viewing and displaying the information to any person interested in anything.

Scope of ICT in Education

The greatest Contribution of ICT is the intention and use of computers in various areas. There is a lot of Scope to yield good results or outputs through the use of computers in the field of education. The use of computers in the education improves the quality of education and brings about desirable changes - both qualitative and quantitative. Several researchers have documented the importance of the use of computers in classroom instruction and have acknowledged the success of using technology for education.

Pedagogy of ICT

Information Communication Technologies (ICT) here refers to the computer and internet connections used to handle and communicate information for learning purpose.

E learning is a learning program that makes use of an information network- such as the internet, an intranet (LAN) or extranet (WAN) whether wholly or in part, for course delivery, interaction and/or facilitation. Web-based learning is a subset of e learning and refers to learning using an internet browser such as the model, blackboard or internet explorer (Tinio, 2002).

Information and Communication Technology has permeated in every walk of life affecting the technology fields such as launching satellites, managing businesses across the globe and also enabling social networking. The convergence of computer, communication and content technologies, being known as ICT, has attracted attention of academia, business, government and communities to use it for innovative profitable propositions. Year by year it is becoming simpler to use devices such as desktop palm top, iPod etc. Broadly speaking, educators, policy makers and researchers all seem to agree on the potential of I.C.T to have a significant and positive impact on education. What is still being debated, however, is the precise role I.C.T should play in education reform and how best to ensure that potential is fulfilled.

Advantages /Benefits of ICT in Education

- Opportunity more student- centered teaching,
- Provide greater opportunity for teacher-to-teacher and student-to student communication and collaboration,
- Provide opportunities for multiple technologies delivered by teachers,
- Create greater enthusiasm for learning amongst students,
- Provide teachers with new sources of information and knowledge,
- Prepare learners for the real world,
- Provide distance learners country-wide with online educational materials
- Use of packages: word-processing, DTP, spreadsheets.
- Teacher and pupil communications improve.
- I.C.T provides links with other schools or with businesses.

- Computers in schools provide wider access to ICT and encourages new way of learning

Limitations of ICT Use in Education

- Reliance on ICT limits student's critical thinking and analytical skills,
- Students often have only a superficial understanding of the information they download,
- Computer-based learning has negative physical side-effects such as vision problem,
- Students may be easily distracted from their learning and may visit unwanted sites,
- Students tend to neglect learning resources other than the computer and internet,
- Students tend to focus on superficial presentations and copying from the internet,
- Students may have less opportunity to use oral skills and hand writing,
- Use of ICT may be difficult for weaker students, because they may have problems with working independently and may need more support from the teacher.

Conclusion

The area, in which the impacts of ICT are significant, is education. ICTs are making major differences in the teaching approaches and the ways students are learning. ICT-enhanced learning environment facilitates active, collaborative, creative, integrative, and evaluative learning as an advantage over the traditional method. In addition, the major promises of ICTs use in education systems of developing countries focus on training teachers in new skills and introducing innovative pedagogies into the classrooms, investing on ICT infrastructure for schools and creating networks among educational institutes, improving overall standard of education by reducing the gap in quality of education between schools in urban and rural areas, initiation of smart school with objectives to foster self-paced, self assessed, and self-directed learning through the applications of ICTs, and developing ICT policy for education and training.

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