

RELEVANCE OF ICTs IN TEACHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

ICT is a scientific, technological and engineering discipline and management technique used in handling information, its application and association with social, economic and cultural issues. ICT is one of the factors that is changing & shaping the world very rapidly. Teacher education institutions are facing with the challenge of preparing a new generation of teachers to effectively use the new learning tools in their teaching practices. Accordingly, teacher education institutions must consider the utilization & applications of ICT in their programmes. The curriculum must be restructured & must include the important components of ICT. Thus ICT is no substitute but a powerful tool for teachers & learners to use. ICT can become the vehicle for the journey on the path of excellence. The present paper aims on highlighting the significance of information and communication technologies in teachers training programmes.

Keywords: education, Teacher Education, ICTs and Quality.

Introduction

Improving the quality of education through the diversification of contents and methods and promoting experimentation, innovation, the diffusion and sharing of information and best practices as well as policy dialogue are UNESCO's strategic objectives in education. Educational systems around the world are under increasing pressure to use the new information and communication technologies (ICTs) to teach students the knowledge and skills they need in the 21st century. The 1998 UNESCO World Education Report, *Teachers and Teaching in a Changing World*, describes the radical implications ICTs have for conventional teaching and learning. It predicts the transformation of the teaching-learning process and the way teachers and learners gain access to knowledge and information. With the emerging new technologies, the teaching profession is evolving from an emphasis on teacher-centred, lecture-based instruction to student centred, interactive learning environments. Designing and implementing successful ICT-enabled teacher education programmes is the key to fundamental, wide-ranging educational reforms. Teacher education institutions may either assume a leadership role in the transformation of education or be left behind in the swirl of rapid technological change. For education to reap the full benefits of ICTs in learning, it is essential that pre- and in-service teachers are able to effectively use these new tools for learning. Teacher education institutions and programmes must provide the leadership for pre- and in-service teachers and model the new pedagogies and tools for learning

Information and Communication Technology in Teacher Education

Teachers are at the core of any living society. Technologies play an important role in training programme of teachers. ICT is very important for Pre-service as well as in- service teacher education programmes in the current Century. Without proper knowledge of ICT teacher cannot perform in his/her class room and it could not be said to be a complete one. ICT helps teachers to interact with students and helps them in

preparation their teaching, provide feedback, effectiveness of classroom. ICT helps teachers to access with institutions and Universities, NCERT, NAAC NCTE and UGC etc, in effective use of ICT software and hardware for teaching & learning process, in improve Teaching skill, helps in innovative Teaching, in improving professional Development and Educational management as well as enhances Active Learning of teacher Trainees. It is now replacing the ancient technology. As we know now-a days students are always have competitive mind. So teacher must have the knowledge of the subject. This can be done through ICT. ICT helps teachers in preparation for teaching. In order to introduce ICT in pre-service teacher education different methods and strategies are applied. Different tools are used such as word processing, Database, Spreadsheet etc. Various technology based plans are used to help the teachers for their practice teaching. ICT prepares teacher for the use of their skills in the real classroom situation and also make students for their future occupation and social life. ICT plays a role of a medium for teaching and learning. It is a tool for teaching and learning itself, the medium through which teachers can teach and learners can learn. It appears in many different forms, such as drill and practice exercises, in simulations and educational networks. Teachers must provide technological support to learn using motion picture, animation, simulation training which helped student teachers to give model presentation. If the teacher is highly equipped with technology, the student will also be equipped with technology. Student accesses knowledge and information through TV, digital media, cable network, internet and social media i. e. Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp, Linkedinn, Igo, Line, Wechat etc. ICT helpful for designed learning situations which are needed for both vocational education and the training of future teachers (in the teacher training institutes). It removes the traditional method of teaching and prepare teacher to apply modern method of teaching. ICT helps Teachers to motivate students and growing interest in learning. ICT helps Teacher to communicate properly with their students. So ICT bridge the gap between teacher and students. ICT is store house of educational institution because all educational information can safely store through ICT.

Three Waves of Teacher Education and Development: A Paradigm Shift in Applying ICT

The teacher education around the world is experiencing three waves of changes. The first wave, deals with the role of the teacher. It is related to the ways teachers can meet the changes in methods and learning processes. The objectives of the first wave are to attain a more efficient way to fulfil the achievement & goals. Teachers' competences and skills are measured by the extent to which students' tasks and goals have been achieved. ICT is used as an efficient tool of storage, transfer and delivery of knowledge to individual student teachers. The second wave refers to teachers' effectiveness and its impact on the quality of education. The most important aspect in this wave is to improve existing structures, organizations and practices in education to meet the expectations and needs from the stakeholders. ICT in teacher education is used to deliver the necessary knowledge and professional skills for teachers to be efficient and adapt to the challenges and changes in society and the environment. The third wave concerns lifelong learning, global networking, the international outlook, and the use of information technology. This wave emphasizes future effectiveness. The third wave is characterized by a paradigm shift, which means that learning will be individualized, local, and global and in which ICT is a prerequisite for change. ICT plays the important role in transforming teacher education into a more local and global phenomenon.

Conclusion

Teacher plays a pivotal role and Teaching occupies a praiseworthy position in the society. ICT helps the teacher for effective teaching, to update the new knowledge, skills to use the new digital tools and resources. By using and acquire the knowledge of ICT, it cannot replace the teacher's exact position nor it can replace the teacher completely. ICT is one of the major factors for producing the rapid changes in our society. It can change the nature of education and roles of students and teacher in teaching learning process. All over the world now teachers using technologies in educational system. Laptops, T.V, LCD projector, Desktop, EDUCOM, Radio, Smart classes, Memory sticks are becoming the common media for teacher education institutions. So we should use information & communication Technology in Teacher Education in current era as because now teachers only can create a bright future for students.

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