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Importance of Information & Communication Technology in Teacher Education Institution

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ABSTRACT

Teacher education institutions are the pivot of good teachers. If we have good institutions to impart education to student teachers it may be a great asset to our educational system in India. We should impart training seriously in these Institutions. We should not pass the time and complete the formality. Now a days we are looking that some teacher education institutions are passing time, taking money and doing nothing. These institutions should take care and develop a sense of responsibility among the student teachers about the duties and good teaching work during the course and after passing the course.

We, all know about the facts of indiscipline and carelessness but we are silent. We don't take any action as we are busy in our affairs. This is the reason that educational programmes for pre-service teachers are not developing properly. There is little doubt that today's would be teachers shall be expected to teach with technology in the classrooms teaching of tomorrow. However, resources such as computers, hardware and other internet facilities are available in some training colleges for teachers. Student-teachers should familiar with the information technology during the training programme. Educational institution should take a serious view in this regard.

Introduction

ICT have technologically revolutionized our Indian society. It has influenced our social and cultural traditions. Knowledge is expanding through educational institutions rapidly and is available to students and their teachers. Institution equipped with internet facilities, computers, laptops and other communication technology will give impetus to our student teachers a great way to encourage themselves to face a new challenges in the modern world. The development of modern technologies (ICT) have made the job of the institutions more demanding and challenging. Through such ICT managed institutions and teachers with innovative technological knowledge and skills, we are ready to face new challenges. We have to build the nation through such teachers who will inspire the students. The recent development in science and technology have changed and improved the world outside the classroom it is practically and interesting for a student then the classroom sitting. ICT has brought

different changes and opportunities in the area of teacher education institutions. Teachers should learn how to use these technologies in their teaching. Educational institutions, through the use of ICT can facilitate student-teachers' learning and create an innovative learning environment.

ICT in Educational Institutions

ICT are big component in our educational institutions and in the development of teacher education. ICT includes different types of software and hardware (Bolstard, 2004) ICT simply defined as “anything which allows us to get information, to communicate with each other, or to have an effect on the environment using electronic or digital equipment.” (Siraj Blatchford & White Bread, 2003). ICT can promote international collaboration and networking among the institutions of repute. Infrastructural facilities and tools must be modernized in teacher education institutions. Student-teachers should be free to use such equipment. Information Communication Technologies can improve the teaching learning by reforming traditional delivery systems enhancing the quality of learning achievements, facilitating state-of-the-art skills formation, sustaining lifelong learning and improving institutional management (UIS, 2009).

Technology Integrated Teacher-Education Institutions

Indian teacher education institutions need to develop high quality technology integrated teacher education programmes. Many states have come forward to improve the material resources necessary to provide technology integrated school education. Many private schools, convents, public and government schools, and navodayas are providing Information and Communication Technology integrated education for their secondary and senior secondary students. In this way, there is a need to have special ICT and teacher education courses in India which can deliver high level quality of technology integrated teacher education programmes.

In teacher education institutions many teachers are reluctant to use ICT, mainly computers, internet etc. Some of the reasons for this reluctance include poor software design, lack of administrative support and need of more time. In this regard efforts should be made to learn the communication technology and how to use it for teaching. Teachers have the fear of losing their authority in the classroom as it becomes more learner centered. These are the problems in front of pre-service teacher educational institutions and in- service teacher professional development programmes.

As ICT is becoming an important factor for educational reforms and new innovations at secondary and senior secondary schools, teacher education colleges and universities, this situation calls for an enhancement of pre-service education on ICT for newly born teachers. There is growing importance for ICT within the school curriculum and teacher education on graduation level. The main objective is to develop pedagogical skills, knowledge and understanding how to use ICT in their everyday work.

Development of Efficiency in Teacher through Educational Institutions

We can develop efficiency and competency in our pre-service and in-service teachers through modernized and up-to-date educational institutions with the help of information and communication technology. The efficiency and competency which the new and old teachers need to develop through institutional infrastructural facilities include:-

- Pedagogical skills through ICT tools for teaching learning process.
- Use of software - word processing, creating portable document (PDF), image processing, multimedia and internet, use of CD Rom, installing programmes, burning CD Rom, creating multimedia presentation. Internet facilities like email, web searching strategies, video conferencing, designing webs pages, using the web sites.
- Use of ICT for professional development in the departments through self or student teachers.
- Awareness of role of ICT among the teachers as well as pre-service teachers. Knowledge skills and understanding of concepts related to ICT.
- Utilizing ICT in planning and implementing, training, practising and teaching ethics related to technology use.
- Using technology to support learning central strategies and to assess student's learning in difficult subject matters.

Receiving these efficiencies by the student teachers and in-service teachers are equally important to create quality through ICT in teacher education.

Role & Responsibilities of Management, Principals & Teachers

Management is the most important element of an education system. Management's role is very critical as he is responsible for drastic change for better growth of the institution. Managing committee members i.e. President, Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, and other members should always alert and ready to do reforms in the institutions according to the needs of the students and teachers from time to time. Principal should be dynamic and cooperative as he has to coordinate the whole affairs of the college/institution. Principal is the father of the institution. He is a pivot. He should know the requirements of staff, office staff and students in all matters and manners. He should suggest new innovative ideas to managing committee and staff members for the welfare of the college. Last but not the least, teacher is the most important person in the institution. His role is very important. He is responsible for growth, development and progress of our Indian society. He has to develop a cooperative, supportive and encouraging teaching learning process in the good atmosphere where students will get scope to show their talents, to construct their knowledge, to realize their physical, intellectual, aesthetical, and mental potentialities in the fullest capacity.

Conclusion

It is the need of the hour that educational institution should wake up and try to manage good quality of ICT education to student teachers through best teachers of education in the institution. Management and government bodies should also be careful and alert to maintain standard of ICT education. ICT plays a pivotal role in any set-up whether it is an enterprise, business, an industry as a whole, or an academic institution. All administrative or managerial activities involve communication, be it an organizing, planning, recruiting, coordinating, or decision making. When we write reports, give instructions or read brochures and manuals, we are involved in the process of communication. Information and Communication Technology, communicating technical contents, has become immensely important for the student-teachers and professionals in order to carry out their assigned tasks successfully. By acquiring the necessary skills in technical communication, students and professionals can communicate with clarity, precision and accuracy, thereby gaining the ability to convey their ideas and points of views with effectiveness and efficiency.

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