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A B S T R A C T

Vast number of literature has given due importance to the technology as it enhances the existing productive potentiality of an economy. Today's technology oriented environment has led to the emergence of information and communication technologies (ICT). The role of ICT in an economic system is multidimensional. The appropriate utilization of ICT helps in access to education, strengthens the relevance of education to the increasingly digital workplace, and raises educational quality. The introduction of computer has facilitated in the promotion of better education. It is documented that Indian higher education is facing tough challenges like the need for better institutes, trained faculty, more research intensive institutes and employability even in the presence of ICT. There are various reasons behind such environment and one of the key challenges is to utilise the technology.

In an educational institute, particularly in higher education, research plays a vibrant role and the introduction of computer is well appreciated in this field. The role of computer should not confine to the access of internet and just making PowerPoint presentations, however these are important, but it should travel further. Today the young scholars of 21st century are enough fortunate to work on empirical research with utmost efficiency as an outcome of ICT as compared to the earlier generation. There are plenty of services available in application software in the research. But the major challenge that Indian education sector is facing today is that many people have the full time access to computer but a few are well acquainted with the facilities provided by different software packages. Young scholars are aspired to learn the statistical packages like SPSS, Eviews, Stata, etc., but the minute observation reflects that very few people feel comfort to work using Microsoft office particularly Microsoft excel. People may wonder over this example, but industries are witness to it and most of the work is handled in this application software. The present study will try to throw light on few interesting applications of this software so that people may get motivated in using the computer, and thus may strengthen the beauty of ICTs and it will also discuss few reforms that are being faced in higher education at faculty level.

Introduction

India is far behind China in the scientific publications. The social science research is always seen to have certain types of analysis and particularly the research scholar use sophisticated techniques to analyse their data. But do all scholars understand the advantages of particular software and do they try to learn the dynamics of whole process? I doubt here and the scholars made analysis of their data with the help of some one. This is one of the major impediments of promotion of quality research that is dire need in the education sector especially in higher education. It means that we have the technology but how do we use it that is most important.

"The illiterate of the 21st century," according to futurist Alvin Toffler, "will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn." Global changes also put pressure on all groups to constantly acquire and apply new skills. The International Labour Organization defines the requirements for education and training in the new global economy simply as "Basic Education for All", "Core Work Skills for All" and "Lifelong Learning for All". However, the experience of introducing different ICTs in the classroom and other educational settings all over the world over the past several decades

suggests that the full realization of the potential educational benefits of ICT is not automatic.

2. ICT in Higher Education

The effective integration of ICTs into the educational system is a complex, multifaceted process that involves not just technology—indeed, given enough initial capital, getting the technology is the easiest part!—but also curriculum and pedagogy, institutional readiness, teacher competencies, and long-term financing, among others. This primer is intended to help policymakers in developing countries define a framework for the appropriate and effective use of ICT in their educational systems by first providing a brief overview of the potential benefits of ICT use in education and the ways by which different ICTs have been used in education so far. Second, it addresses the four broad issues in the use of ICTs in education—effectiveness, cost, equity, and sustainability.

The primer concludes with a discussion of five key challenges that policymakers in developing countries must reckon with when making decisions about the integration of ICTs in education, namely, educational policy and planning, infrastructure, capacity building, language and content, and financing. There was a time when in order to make analysis of particular data a huge amount of time, efforts, stress

has to be spent. But the technology has eased all these concepts and one can do all this while sitting in one room. It is good that the aspired scholar has the courage and dream to be a successful man but before that they have to be capable to meet the requirements of the system. It is my personal observation that most of the corporate houses are largely dependent on the application software Microsoft excel.

The leading investment banks, KPOs all are using intensively these packages. The problem is that most of the students go for coaching to learn the basic computer and they do not get opportunity to learn such type of things. We are talking about the employability challenge that the Indian education sector is facing and this is the one of the factors which hampers/impediments the aspirations of young scholars and they get disappointed from the education that they have received.

When we talk about to motivate the people once it is done the work is over because there are potentialities in the scholars and the only thing is to induce them for the forthcoming incentives. And within Microsoft Office how much is quite familiar with the Microsoft excel. We may take the example of Microsoft PowerPoint as well as Microsoft word. Few examples are there where the faculty feel un-comfortable to utilize the application software and lack in guiding the students further. Initially people were afraid of the usage of computer but now the young students are in a position to do the wonders. The only thing is to allure them the beauty of computer.

3. Other Challenges in Higher Education

India needs to remove the "Dysfunctional regulations" and to call upon the flexible regulation to raise the standards of higher education. The major challenges in public and private sector before planners, policy makers and educationist, was of producing world class universities that could be counted in the top 200 rating list. That would possible only after introducing international faculty. The 12th Five Year Plan was expansion, equality of access and excellence.

Expansion of higher education has to be balanced with equality of access; especially for those living in areas where educational institutions did not exist. FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) Higher Education Committee in its summit held on November 11-12 in New Delhi released the EY (Ernst and Young) FICCI report on Higher Education in India where it highlights three issues faced by the Indian education sector i.e. access, quality and equity. With a GER (Gross Enrolment Ratio) of 13.8 percent and enrolment of 14.6 million, the access to higher education in India is available only to a limited

section of the population. With regard to equity, there is a wide disparity in higher education across states, urban and rural areas, gender and communities. Regarding quality 45 percent of the positions for professors, 51 percent positions for readers, and 53 percent positions for lecturers were vacant in Indian Universities in 2007-8. Apart from these there are infrastructure deficiencies in more than 48 percent universities and 69 percent of colleges.

The one most important factor that causes challenges in higher education is considered the plagiarism in research work. It is found that research papers published in India have 2.7 citations per paper in comparison to 6 citations per publication in the US and UK and 4 citations per article in Japan. The quality of research paper is judged by the rating of the journal wherein it is published and further the citation of such publications in the good rating journals.

Publication's impact is measured through citations per paper. The innovative thoughts and ideas may be discouraged and remain closed in the presence of easiest available sources to copy. In this context India ranks 21st in the terms of research papers in science, but 119th in terms of research papers of any worthwhile contribution. In India number of core researchers was about 1.5 lakh as compared to china's 8-10 lakh. In India we have only 157 scientists (research and development) and engineers per million of the population in comparison to 30 times more in countries like the US and Japan and five times more in South Korea. We have 17 percent of the global population but account for mere 1.5 percent of the global output in research and development.

Technological innovation may be considered the vital factor for the promotion and development in industry. It can be generated with quality research which requires quality engineers and scientists. There are quality standard quality journals but the poorly rated journals are increasing day by day with the encouragement of plagiarised work and to earn the benefits in the form of money in order to publish the research paper.

Our universities need to encourage academics to publish in top journals and discourage the poor quality rated journals. They can be given right incentives in the form of better promotional avenues to boost their talent. However, the initiative has been taken at central level in next Five Year Plan (April 2012 to March 2017). It is suggested to allocate 2 percent of India's gross domestic product (GDP) for research in science and technology. Currently expenditure is 0.98 percent (Rs. 3,300 crore in Eleventh Five Year Plan) which is propose to make 90,000 crore in next five year plan.

Conclusion

Statistics shows that India is far behind US, UK and China in terms of quality research and quality rated journals. However government has proposed to spend 90,000 crore on education in next five year plan. At present China has performed exceedingly well with six of its universities figuring in the list of 200, two in the first 50. As per the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)

World University Rankings 2011, none of the Indian Institutes of higher education figures in the first 200. FCCI suggested inviting foreign faculty to raise the standards of higher education which may be considered the challenge for the faculty in India.

REFERENCE

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- 2 Montek Singh Ahluwalia (Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission) inaugural speech on FICCI Higher Education Summit 2011: Strategies for Expansion in Higher Education in India.
- 3 Plagiarism is to copy another person's idea, words or works and pretend that they are your own.
- 4 Harendra Raj Gautam, " Improve quality of research" The Tribune, March 27, 2012
- 5 Harendra Raj Gautam, " Improve quality of research" The Tribune, March 27, 2012