

APPLICATION OF ICT IN HIGHER EDUCATION FOR QUALITY CULTURE AUGMENTATION: A REFLECTIVE APPROACH

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Abstract: *The present article is an endeavour to familiarise all the stakeholders of the higher educational institutions with the various innovative ICT tools that can be used in teaching, learning and evaluation process for quality culture enhancement and the advantages of making the same more effective and pleasurable. The paper is also concerned with the process of NAAC accreditation and its framework to elevate the standard of higher education and ensure the quality culture in the academic campus by fostering global competencies among the students through promoting ICT. The diligent framing has brought every aspect of higher education in thorough consideration, particularly putting more stress on ICT. As ITC is emerging as a benchmark of quality culture and excellence to attune with the global competency, it is need of time to update with the latest ICT tools that are getting momentum in teaching learning process. If the institutions offer and endorse extensive use of ICT, they can get the positive result of the same in the overall advancement of the institutions. This practice provides new opportunities to the students to update themselves with the changing global scenario and enhance the learning experience. Hence, it is indispensable for every institute to keep the pace with the changing time to adopt and adept in this area.*

Key words: *quality culture, framework, global competencies, benchmarks*

Introduction:

The present century is distinguished and will be distinguished in approaching future as an age that has given an impetus to the tendency of using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in every sphere of lives. The extensive use of Information and Communication Technology is attaining an enormous momentum and priority in teaching, learning, evaluation and governance processes in higher education. It has brought so many new opportunities to reform in teaching-learning and opened a new vista for new possibilities. Now a day, it is the most vibrant formulation that is going with the great reverence in the global educational scenario. It is taken as a gateway to the all types of and repository and acquaintance. It is an umbrella term that includes several assets that have been used for storing and distributing the information through the various technological means. Before going to converse how the convention of ITC is altering the countenance of the higher education, it would be healthier to examine in brief the meaning of the expression. The term

Information Communication Technology (ICT) is taken as a process of collecting, storing and delivering information. Information refers to the assimilation of information and knowledge through the World Wide Web; technology refers various applications that can ensure the proper distribution of the same to users, and communication is to a process through that information is disseminated. It is a broader term that refers to all communication technologies including the web connectivity, WiFi, audio-visual aids, software programming, social networking, and other media applications and services enabling users to access, recover, amass, broadcast, and manipulate information in a digital form. It is a kind of management system by that the information is distributed. It refers to technologies that provide access to information through [telecommunications](#).

Need and Advantages of ICT:

The usage of ICT is budding in educational arena as a supporting system to the customary method of teaching that is limited to chalk and talk. The western countries have made the immense use of this method to boost the quality of teaching, learning, evaluation, and strengthen governance by promoting it as an integral part of education. It is helping them to make certain the delivery and access of knowledge to everyone in every corner within short time. As an emerging hub of IT, India is also treading the course of ICT by incorporating its usage in teaching, learning and evaluation. In order to be pertinent to the changing global scenario and shifting concept of education, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is also principally concerned to encourage quality culture in the educational institutions by incorporating ICT in its mission, core values and quality framework. To stimulate the academic environment for promotion of quality of teaching-learning and research in higher educational institutions and nurture global competencies among the students extra stress is put on the endorsement of the use of ICT tools along with the traditional methods. The main focus of the revised process is to formulate the existing system ICT enabled and friendly, and by that to make it more vibrant, robust, transparent and globally scalable. It is promoted as a benchmark of quality enhancement and assessment. To attune with global competency, the advantages of using modern tools and technological innovations in teaching-learning-evaluation and governance is well recognized and indispensable. The initiative of Digital India undertaken by the government is also promoting ICT in educational system to walk and talk with the time.

To keep the tempo with the expansion in other spheres of human endeavour, it is necessitated for the HEIs to enrich the learning experiences of their students by promoting the latest ICT tools. Information and Communications Technology (ICT) can impact the learning experience of the students if it is integrated into curriculum. Through this method, the teaching learning process can be made further effective, competent and pleasurable. In many ways this process is proving beneficial in our nation by ensuring quality education to every section of the society without class and geographical distinction. It has power to confiscate the barriers between the students who are getting education either in rural area or metro cities, either in reputed schools or government. The promotion of ICT is making education more affordable and easy accessible. Every sort of information is now obtainable without any impediment. It also helps to facilitate international learning opportunities. It is ICT usage that

has made everyone to live locally and think globally. We have seen its effectiveness and utility during the pandemic period when whole world was shut down at the physical level. It is ICT that saved the year from going to be a zero academic year. In many ways, ICT tools have proved a kind of boon to the suffering humanity. In addition of using technology as a learning resource, managing the activities of the institution in a technology-enabled ensures effective institutional functioning.

The usages of ICT tools are promising as a benchmark in the process of evaluation and quality augmentation. The institutions that are using and promoting ICT in teaching, learning, evaluation and governance is getting due weightage in accreditation process. Hence, it is indispensable for every educational institute to adopt and adept itself in the exercise of ICT to make it friendlier to the students. In the varying scenario, it is expected that the higher educational institutions should be very proactive in implementing various ICT related student centric methods. The campus community must be adequately prepared to make use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) optimally. In other words, effective use of ICT in HEIs will ensure ICT literacy and inspire the campus community to employ this practice for resource sharing and networking as well as adopts ICT-enabled administrative processes.

The practice of ICT in teaching, learning and evaluation is proving very beneficial to the students as well as teachers. There are many advantages to connect the students in classroom along with the supporting aids in the form of ICT tools. These applications improve their engagement, attainment and knowledge retention, and prepare them to be integrated to learning. They have been also encouraged to adopt and adept in individual, participative, interactive and collaborative teaching and learning methods. The communication ability can be enhanced by familiarising them to the latest fashion of talking. It helps to minimize cost and save time. The habit also provides an independent learning platform to students to nurture their creative thinking and creative problem-solving ability. They can avail automatic solutions to the problems. It motivates teaching and learning and makes it effective and result oriented through screening of motivational videos, images and graphics while delivering lessons in classroom. The method makes learning process as a pleasurable experience with audio visual aids. It also plays a vital role in respect to improving the administration and bringing accuracy and transparency in working process of the institutions. By encouraging this method, we can also contribute to environmental sustainability through this paperless learning.

The teachers have got a lot of opportunities to use new technologies in imparting experimental and participative learning and problem solving methodologies to boost learning experiences. Of course, technology never replaces a good teacher but technology in the hands of good teacher can create miracles in teaching learning process. Hence, it is necessitated that the educational institutions should ensure sufficient ICT assistance for problem solving methodology along with traditional teaching aids. An Earnest effort should be made to train and update the teachers with the latest tools that are fashionable in teaching learning process in order to bring creativity, consistency, devotion, commitment and innovation in Teaching - Learning Process. The institutions have a lot of opportunities to exploits the benefit of ICT in

their overall activities. Some of tools and resources such as Power point presentation, Google classroom, You Tube, e-Book and Magazines, e-Dictionary, e-Brain Activity, blogs, Projectors, CD programs are easily accessible to provide benefit to its stakeholders. Along with these, the institutes have a lot of scope and opportunity to go with the following innovative resources:

Quick Response Code:

The QR coding process is going to be a more popular method in educational scenario due to its easy accessibility, fast readability and greater storage. It is a type of [matrix barcode](#) that is used with the purpose of sharing information. It is a machine-scanable and readable optical label that contains information about the item to which it is attached. In practice, QR codes often contain data for a locator, identifier, or [tracker](#) that points to a website or application. When the Smartphone scans this code, it translates that information into something that can be easily understood by humans.

The higher education has a lot of opportunity to get the various system such as computer laboratories, library, departmental Blog, notices boards, office etc. and facilities such as botanical garden, history museum, research laboratories, Gymnastics, athletic arena etc. with QR codes so that the students and other stakeholders can access the information without any assistance. It is also noted that QR codes are free to use or create or generate in any QR code software online as long you generate your QR solution in a static QR code. It can be done with the following manner:

1. Select a QR code generator.
2. Choose the type of content you're promoting.
3. Enter your data in the form that appears.
4. Consider downloading a dynamic QR code.
5. Customize it.
6. Test the QR code to make sure it scans.
7. Display and distribute QR code.
8. Track and analyze performance.

Video Capturing and Uploading:

This is another system that can be practiced in teaching process without a great deal. In this system, the teacher can shoot his/her classroom lectures and upload the same on Google class Room or Institutional website. The students who have missed the same class can access the missed topic without any hurdle. This method can also help to the teacher in respect to API scoring.

PPT and Video Banks:

The teaching and learning process can be made effective and easily accessible by establishing subject wise PPT and Video bank and should be made available in Knowledge Resource Centre or Study Centre. This method helps students to access the videos and PPT

related to the area of difficulties. We have also lot up scope to download some important educational videos and PPTs available on Internet to provide the benefit of the same to the students. The collection can be also enriched every year. It is also very beneficial for the teacher to teach his topic more effectively and fruitfully. Whenever the students get off lecture during college timing, they can utilise their precious time to learn and clear their various concepts without the help of the teachers.

Virtual Classroom and Media Centre:

A virtual classroom is a learning environment in which students engage with the lesson material online. It is an innovative new method of bringing together students into a controlled environment customized for teaching new concepts and ideas. Students can engage with the material from any device that can connect to the Internet. It involves the learners' going through the content at their own pace, reading digital resources, and watching YouTube videos of the material. Virtual platforms can host much more than text and images. Video files, audio recordings, interactive simulations, and even educational games can improve the flexibility of the course. It proves very beneficial to the students for better accessibility, lower cost, and global reach and effective audio-visual interaction. The educational institutes have a lot of opportunity to set media centre in the campus with minimum requirement. It requires computer systems, LCD Projector, microphones, Internet connectivity, printers, camera and a software tool for hosting live stream events. Through this the institutions can also avail the opportunities of collaboration with the reputed institutions.

The media centre is also emerging as a new concept in the field of higher education. It is a kind of e-library within college where the students, researchers and staff can access to a variety of resources. Through this the institutes engages in production of Video & Multimedia based programmes and records and manages the academic events. It functions as a vital instrument as well as a basic requirement for quality education by enriching the existing teaching and learning process. It also helps not only students working on class projects but anyone who needs assistance starting a project.

Language Laboratory:

Language is an important tool of communication in the affairs of human beings. Hence, communication skills are indispensable for the success in professional life in the present era. Computer assisted Language laboratory plays a vital role in the language learning and teaching process. It facilitates to improve the communication skills of the learners by enhancing the learning experience. It has a number of advanced facilities which help the learners to get proficiencies in language skills. It is inevitable in today's context to promote language skills. It helps us to use technology to promote language skills and to acquire a sensibility for sounds, pronunciation, rhythm, accent, stress, voice modulation and to access online courses, training programs for the practical use of language. Hence, the need for lab is being widely recognised by present educational scenario.

Conclusion:

If the institutions offer and endorse extensive use of ICT in teaching learning process, they can get the positive result of the same in the overall advancement of the institutions. This practice provides new opportunities to the students to update themselves with the changing global scenario and enhance the learning experience. Hence, it is indispensable for every institute to keep the pace with the changing time to adopt and adept in this area. It has power to make the teaching and learning process more effective, efficient and interesting. This promotion can also help to go through the NAAC assessment and accreditation process. It is now promising as a benchmark of quality assessment and quality sustainability.

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