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EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION SOCIETY'S

**K.B.COLLEGE OF ARTS & COMMERCE FOR
WOMEN,THANE**

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INDEX

Sr. No.	Title Name	Name of the Participate	Page No
1	Democratisation Of Education: Role Of Intellectual Class	Prof. Vikas Waghu Ubale	1
2	Innovative Teaching Practices To Enhance The Quality Of Education	Dr. Abhay D. Sawant	4
3	Sexual Harassment At Work Place	Dr Bhawna Ruchi Singh	10
4	An Analysis Of Teaching Style Of Newly Appointed Young Teachers At Senior Science College	Prof. Kiran M. Pariya	13
5	Virtual Learning Environment	Dr. Leena Sarkar	19
6	Global Migration Of Human Resource	Dr. Mahesh Baburao Patil	22
7	Impact Of Education On Development Of Women	Dr. Manisha D. Bhingardive	26
8	Youth In An ICT World: A Study On The Inter-Relation Between Technology And Youth	Dr. Merlin Joseph	30
9	A Study Of Human Migration At Global Level With Special Reference To India In Comparison With Other Foreign Countries	Dr. Parag R. Karulkar Miss. Hannat Yusuf Shaikh	35
10	Influence Of School Infrastructure On Socio Competence In Adolescents	Dr. Richa Thakar Dr. Deepali Sharma Mr. Rakesh Pandya	41
11	Virtual Learning/ E- Learning	Dr. Vandana N. Purav	45
12	A Study On Women Entrepreneuers And Their Empowerment	Dr. (Mrs.) G. Vijayeshwari Rao	49
13	Quality Education In Mathematics	Mr Manoj S. Narkhede	54
14	Mathematics: The Key Of Success	Mrs. Kalpana Prasad Ramdas	60
15	Role Of Nature Education And Publicity In Wild Life Conservation	Mrs. Nandita Moitra	64
16	Global Migration Of Human Resources And Its Impact	Mrs. Yogita Sawant	68
17	Women Empowerment Through Educational Initiatives Of Government Of Maharashtra	Ms. Geetanjali B. Chiplunkar	75
18	A Study Of Value Based Spiritual Education Amongst Children With Special Reference To Uran In Raigad District Of Maharashtra	Ms. Krupali Manohar Pawar	81
19	Learning Outcome In Mathematics - A Practical Approach: With Special Reference To Undergraduate Commerce Teaching At University Of Mumbai	Prof. Sunanda Bhasagare	87
20	A Torchbearer For Women Empowerment	Prof. Anuradha Shukla	91
21	Need Of Vocational Training To Empower Women SHG's With Special Reference To Ratnagiri District	Ms. Darshana D. Kadwadkar	94
22	The Pivotal Role Of ICT In Indian Education System	Mr. Jagdish Magar	97
23	Role Of Micro Finance For Reduction Of Poverty And Illiteracy	Prof. Ninad Vijay Jadhav	101
24	Study Of Quality Education, Opportunities & Challenges In Choice Base Credit System (CBCS)	Prof. Ravindra s. Netawate Prof. Dr. D.B. Bhanagade	105

THE PIVOTAL ROLE OF ICT IN INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

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Abstract:

Information and communication technology (ICT) is playing pivotal role in digitalization of India. Education system is no longer depend on traditional tools of teaching, it grown up with technology and made itself universalised with efficient centre of skill based human resource provider. This era is witnessing phenomenal change in human perception. Education has crossed regional and physical boundaries, with one tap on your cell phone or computer you can fetch any kind of information. This paper is an attempt to review Information and Communication Technology based learning development in India. It also illustratively discusses growing importance of government efforts to promoting technology based learning system like SWAYAM and E-PATHSHALA.

Introduction:

India with a population of around 1.27 billion is the second most populous country in the world. Our-nation has 65% of relatively younger population in the world. By 2020, India will be amongst the youngest nations in the world with nearly 140- million people in the college going age groups. One in every four graduates in the world will be a product of Indian Higher Education system. Apart from this India is known for its skilled labour and human resource.

Despite all social, economic, regional disparities, India has created the largest formal education system in the world. It has more than 30 million students enrolled in higher education and around 10 lakh faculties.

Internet Usage:

India is third largest user of Internet after US and China. Now the nation is adding five million new Internet users every month. India has reached over 375 million Internet users in June 2016. According to Internet world statistics Indian internet users will surpass 500 million people will be online by 2018. Very soon the Education system will be influenced by this high-speed internet availability.

Information Technology

Humans have been storing, retrieving, manipulating, and communicating information since the Sumerians in Mesopotamia developed writing in about 3000 BC but the term 'information technology' in its modern sense first appeared in a 1958 article published in the Harvard Business Review, authors Harold J. Levitt and Thomas L. Whisler commented that "the new technology does not yet have a single established name. We shall call it information technology(IT) His definition consists three categories. Techniques for processing, the application of statistical and mathematical method to decision making, and simulation of higher-order thinking through computer programs [1].

Information and Communication Technology

Information and Communication Technologies are defined as all devices, tools, content, resources, forums, and services, digital and those that can be converted into or delivered through digital forms, which can be deployed for realising the goals of teaching learning, enhancing access to and reach of resources, building of capacities, as well as management of the educational system.

These will not only include hardware devices connected to computers, and software applications, but also interactive digital content, internet and other satellite communication devices, radio and television services, web based content repositories, interactive forums, learning management systems, and management information systems.

These will also include processes for digitisation, deployment and management of content, development and deployment of platforms and processes for capacity development, and creation of forums for interaction and exchange [7].

The above two paragraphs defining growing importance of technology based learning in all sectors. In the beginning, the use was very limited for storage and display of information. Now the advance technology has paved the way for content designing, knowledge management and most important in distance learning for rural India. This development witnessed various changes in government approach and understanding. The journey from Radio to MOOC and now NDL is delighting, very successful for underprivileged class, who don't even afford basic education.

Landmark achievements:

As India got independence, education for all was the priority in administration but very soon they realised that present human resource will be insufficient. Early years of Indian independence were full of confusion, war and political instability, which drastically affected Indian literacy programme. But introduction of Radio and Television changed the scenario and these were stepping stone of technological revolution in information and communication sector. It also changed the education system. Earlier 'chalk and talk' was the only method of information sharing and communication. But later Radio and Television became source of information, it may be news, innovation or some times entertainment but flow of information reached to rural part of India. Introduction of All India Radio and Doordarshan were potential source of information.

15 August 1984, Indian National Satellite Project (INSAT) started and educational television project called Country Wide Classroom with 17 audio and visual media research centres were established by UGC at different universities to provide quality educational material and information to all. The aim was to upgrade and enrich the learning experience. Science, agriculture and Engineering were the main concern of information.

May 1991, Indira Gandhi Open University(IGNOU) and Doordarshan jointly started initiative to provide tele counselling to the open university specially for rural area. Along with MHRD they also launched educational tv channel known as VYAS channel related with all sector of education. In 2004, MHRD and IGNOU jointly launched

Gyan Vani Project of Radio FM station, understanding importance of regional language and introducing live programmes with phone interactivity.

The major transformation is counted in the year 2004, where ISRO launched EDUSAT satellite for the country. The aim was to develop multimedia system in the classroom system. It was used for training of faculty, students and curriculum development, group discussion, online lecture etc. National Programme on Technology Enhancement Learning (NPTEL) was launched in September 2006 by the MHRD. This is online discussion forum incorporate study material and series of video lectures. It is typically designed for Engineering, Science, Technology, Management and Humanities. India's reputed technical institutions are involved in course work conduct and certification. It offers around 900 courses along with video lectures and tutorials developed for various disciplines. Realising potential and pivotal role of ICT National Mission of Education through Information and Communication Technology(NMEICT) was launched by MHRD on 2nd February 2009. The objective was to connect around 400 Universities and 22,000 colleges with high-speed data network, improving efficiency and flow of information to most remote part of india. It also aims to develop e-content for all disciplines. The extended format of this programme is popularly known as E-Path Shala offering free e-content for KG to PG student from all discipline. It not only destroyed financial shackles but offered a fair opportunity to those who want to learn beyond the boundaries.

The initiative includes plan to connect rural areas with high speed internet networks. The vision of Digital India has centred around the three key areas.

- 1.The creation of digital infrastructure
- 2.promotte e- Governance
3. Digital empowerment of citizen through digital literacy and skill development.

It has liberated access to all the digital contents including e-books. One can download and share the collections of e-textbooks for all classes and areas of the curriculum, supplementary reading material, resource for teachers, teacher educators and parents, in English, Hindi, Sanskrit and Urdu.

Swayam

To provide access to the best quality learning resources across the country, the project 'Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds'(SWAYAM)has started in 2016-17. It provides an integrated platform and portal for online courses, using information and communication technology(ICT) covering High School till all higher education subjects and skill sector courses to ensure that every student benefits from learning material through ICT. It is one- stop web and mobile based interactive e-content using multimedia on anytime any where basis. It offers monitoring and certification as curriculum concern it also get into interaction, discussion forum and enhance quality of class room teaching.

National Digital Library (NDL)

The Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRDC) has taken initiatives to streamline

this information thrust and knowledge explosion through National Digital Library. Ministry of Human Resource Development under its National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology(NMEICT) has initiated the National Digital Library(NDL) pilot project to develop a framework of virtual repository of learning resources with a single-window search facility. NDL is designed to hold contents of any language and provide interface support for all academic levels including researcher and lifelong learners, in all disciplines, in all popular forms of access devices and also to differently abled learners. It is being developed to help students to prepare for entrance and competitive examination, to enable people learn and gain knowledge from the best practices from all over the world and to facilitate researchers to perform inter linked exploration from multiple resource

Conclusion:

Indian Education system and economy are interdependent. As India is experiencing transition phase from developing economy to developed nation, digitalization is unavoidable part. It not only proves to be efficient but very crucial in preventing corruption. The ICT based education system will solve quantity base problem and strengthen quality framework for next generation. Today learning material, information, tutorials, videos and interaction forums are available without any financial assistance. The growing use of cell phone, computer and internet created world as a global village of information. Though it has pros and cons but Indian point of view it is changing life of the rural India.

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