

Attitude Towards Computer Among Teacher Trainees



Education

KEYWORDS : Attitudes toward Computer, Teacher Trainees, Government and Private Institutes.

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ABSTRACT

This survey research investigated attitudes toward computer among teacher trainees. This study also examined differences attitudes toward computer with respect to management of the institution. Attitude toward Computer Scale was applied to 400 teacher trainees. This study is conducted by survey method. The data is analyzed through frequency, mean value, standard deviation, and t-test for group comparison. The objectives are to find out the level of attitudes towards computer among teacher trainees; to find out the significant mean difference between government and private teacher trainees with respect to attitude towards computer. It is determined that there is a moderate level of attitudes toward computer observed in the teacher trainees. The findings suggest that the teacher trainees had moderate level of attitude towards computer. And, there is significant difference found in accordance with the type of management of the institution. Based on the mean scores, Government institute teacher trainees have more attitude towards computer than their counterpart.

Introduction:

Computers are increasingly widespread, influencing many aspects of our social and work lives, as well as many of our leisure activities. As more tasks involve human computer interaction, computer skill and knowledge have become more positively correlated with both occupation and personal success. The important uses of computer educational system are the class room interactions and experiences with technology. Statement by Woodrow (1994), "it is of critical social and educational importance to research the circumstances under which students (and teacher) feel comfortable learning about and utilizing the computer as an essential tool for learning". According to Hong et al (2001), schools from elementary levels to universities are using the web and internet to supplement classroom instruction, to give learners the ability to connect to information (instructional and other resources) and to deliver learning experiences.

Computer-based learning is a new trend that has wide range of affections on all areas. It has an effect on education by influencing the students learning as a being technological and cultural functions. By computer, students can catch stable, contemporary knowledge with its multi functional tools. While thinking contemporary educational context, dealing with application of knowledge, research for learning become vital part on students and educators environment. On the other hand, computer has a facility to improve creative and critical thinking of students by providing research facilities and provide huge amount of storage, fast easy study for people who have ability to use. The importance of the study is to emphasize that computer has an impact on people especially for students' learning and researching process by providing stable and active learning with its applicable and helpful property about students' knowledge. Computer is a key issue that is providing people a sense of application, self-responsibility and self-decision choices while doing their own studies. People become active role while they are learning at computers and they need guidance to shape them in a correct way (Aytakin Isman et al, 2004). Computer science is the frontier of all the streams, so research activity in computer science is the most effective process to make people and, society stronger in all the aspects, and it is extremely fast growing field (Saroj Yadav and Shivveer Singh, 2011). Attitude is not an inborn, instinct phenomenon; it mainly depends upon person's experience and its impact in a new situation. Consequently, attitudes are formed in the process of experience and their change is possible due to the internal and external factors (Sekar, P, 2013). An attitude towards computer is a very important aspect to achieve better in the academic success and the development of computer literacy in the young minds. Because of this reason, the aim of this study was defined as to know the level of awareness of new trends and tendency about computer and its effects at education as being influencer on student's learning.

Need and Significance of the Study:

Schools from elementary levels to universities are using the

web and internet to supplement classroom instruction, to give learners the ability to connect to information (instructional and other resources) and to deliver learning experiences. In this context, the teacher might be aware of all spears of computer literacy, usage and giving instruction through computer. The future teachers of training school teachers should be aware of the computer applications. Then only they can utilise the computer in their classroom content delivery. For this reasons, this study having more significance.

Statement of the Problem:

The present study is entitled as "ATTITUDE TOWARDS COMPUTER AMONG TEACHER TRAINEES".

Objectives:

The following are the objectives of the study:

1. To find out the level of attitudes towards computer among teacher trainees.
2. To find out the significant mean difference between government and private institute teacher trainees with respect to attitude towards computer.

Hypotheses:

The following are the hypotheses of this study:

1. The level of attitude towards computer among teacher trainees is high.
2. There is no significant difference between government and private institute teacher trainees with respect to attitude towards computer.

Research Design:

Normative survey method was adopted for this study.

Sample:

In this study, the sample consists of four hundred student teachers studying teacher training (D.T.Ed) course in Teacher Training Institutes located at Cuddalore District of Tamil Nadu. Simple random sampling technique was adopted for sample selection.

Tools Used:

The investigator used the following instruments for data collection.

1. Personal Data Sheet developed by the investigator.
2. Attitude Scale Towards Computer developed and validated by Kumaran and Selvaraj (1997).

Data Analysis and Interpretations:

For analyzing the data, descriptive statistics such as percentage, mean, standard deviation analysis were employed. For paired group comparisons, independent t-test was conducted. The cal-

culated values are given in the following tables 1-2.

Results:

Table-1: The level of attitude towards computer among teacher trainees.

Level of Attitudes	Frequency	Percentage
Low	116	29.0
Moderate	192	48.0
High	92	23.0
Total	400	100

From the above table, it is observed that 48.0% of teacher trainees (N=400) involved in the present study have moderate level of attitude towards computer, 29.0 % of them have low level of attitude towards computer and the remaining 23.0 % have high level of attitude towards computer. Hence, it is inferred that the teacher trainees having moderate level of attitudes toward computer.

Table 2: The Mean, SD and t-value of government and private institute teacher trainees in attitude towards computer

Management of the Institution	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Significance at 0.05 level
Government	98	124.98	9.70	2.98	Significant
Private	302	120.45	7.86		

In order to find out the significant mean difference between Government and private teacher trainees in attitude towards computer score, the calculated 't' value is found to be 2.98, which is significant at 0.05 level. Hence, it is inferred that Government and private institute teacher trainees differ significantly in their attitude towards computer. Based on the mean scores, Government institute teacher trainees have more (124.98) attitude towards computer than their counterpart (120.45).

Major Findings:

1. From the above table-1, it is observed that 48.0% of teacher trainees (N=400) involved in the present study have moderate level of attitude towards computer, 29.0% of them have low level of attitude towards computer and the remaining 23.0 % have high level of attitude towards computer. Hence, it is inferred that the teacher trainees having moderate level of attitudes toward computer.
2. In order to find out the significant mean difference between Government and private teacher trainees in attitude towards computer score, the calculated 't' value is found to be 2.98, which is significant at 0.05 level. Hence, it is inferred that Government and private institute teacher trainees differ significantly in their attitude towards computer. Based on the mean scores, Government institute teacher trainees have more (124.98) attitude towards computer than their counterpart (120.45).

Research Implications:

The research study has generated a number of outcomes to the research questions. This study reveals students teacher trainees have moderate level of attitude towards computer. Government institute teacher trainees have more attitudes towards computer than private teacher trainees. In Tamilnadu, most of the Government institutes provide better computer education, so they have more attitudes toward computer. Private institutes should have to concentrate on make available the facilities of computer to the student community. The new information revolution in the classroom is now in a unique situation where it can permanently alter the method of instruction. Computer is the most important invention by man which is used in banks, industry, medicine, defence, sports and games, education and so on. Ignorance about computers makes people functionally illiterate. Computer Assisted Instruction is concerned with the use of computers to mediate the flow of information in the learning process. It is necessary for teachers to develop appropriate study habits among the students by providing them with conducive environment at school and home by motivating them to involve in studies and making learning interesting with a variety of instructional materials and techniques. In addition to, having parental expectations and encouragement in the use of computers and the internet at home to help supplement their child's education with or without the support of the school. Present study suggests that institutions, counsellors and vocational guidance specialists have important roles to play in developing positive attitude towards computer among pre-service teacher trainees.

Conclusion:

By the findings of the present study, the teacher trainees are having favourable attitude towards computer. So the curriculum frame workers should consider above said factor while developing curriculum to improve the attitude towards computer among the teacher trainees. For development of this attitude to the pre-service teacher trainees, the teachers, parents and politicians should take effective step in the above said area. Teachers should prefer the multimedia aspects such as animation, movies, graphics and synchronous sound to teach in the classroom. And educate the student teachers to know how to handle or managing this software. Generally it would appear that where one media format may not enhance the learning process of one student, it may enhance the learning process of another. So, the need of attitude towards computer among the teacher trainees has great significance.

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