

Development of ICT in Education - A Move Towards Globalization



Education

KEYWORDS :

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ABSTRACT

India is the second largest populated country in the world. This increasing population should not be taken as burden or a challenge but one could think how to utilize this increasing human resource to the advantageous front. One could take it as a boon by converting our demographic advantage into knowledge powerhouse by nurturing our population into knowledge enabled working population. This drastic expansion of knowledge can be achieved with the availability and accessibility of knowledge to all the individuals of the country. To acquire this state ICT (Information and Communication Technology) could be one of the solutions when the whole world can join hands together to achieve new heights of sustainable development. ICT has become within a very short time, one of the basic building blocks of modern society. Many countries now regard in understanding ICT and mastering the basic skills and concepts of ICT as the part of the core of education. The Government of India has taken ICT initiatives in a big way and has laid down a National ICT policy, which is reflected and implemented through various Government Department and ministries. The research paper throws light on the key features of National ICT policy and its contribution to expand globalization.

Background

India today is the second largest populated country in the world. As per the data given by the trading economics, 2016, the total population in India was estimated at 1254.0 million people in 2015. according to the latest census figure. The population of India represents 17.99 percent of the world's total population which arguably means that one person in every 6 people on the planet is a resident of India. India has more than 50% of its population below the age of 25 and more than 65% below the age of 35. It is expected that, in 2020, the average age of an Indian will be 29 years, compared to 37 for China and 48 for Japan.

The increasing population raises the question of harnessing the available resources in the optimum manner. As more than 50% of India's population is youth which means the country has a large portion of capable human resource available to carry the baton of development and sustenance. But, still, India is not able to provide sufficient means to draw the optimum potential of the available youth population.

Different problems concerning, creation of a youth to participate creatively in the establishment. sustenance and growth of a knowledge society leading to all round socio-economic development of the nation and global competitiveness.

Our Government has taken many initiatives year by year to actually realize the greatest benefit from the current situation. One such initiative was taken at the time of Narasimha Rao Government in 1991-92. It was Narasimha Rao Government that gave a definite shape and start to the new economic reforms of globalization in India. Presenting the 1991-92 budget, Finance Minister, Manmohan Singh welcomed FDI, which would provide access to capital, technology and market. Thus, globalization was adopted by Indian Government when Indian economy was in very bad shape. Now the policy of globalization is reaching new heights but still the output is still not satisfactory until each and every individual of the nation could able to taste fruits of this rising trends.

Globalization is the process of international integration arising from the interchange of world views, products, ideas and other aspects of culture. The need of the hour is to prepare youth to participate creatively in the establishment, sustenance and growth of a knowledge society leading to all round socio- economic development of the na-

tion and can stand global competitiveness. The initiation of globalization has opened the gateway for the new era of worldwide progress. The increasing population of India is able to find out new opportunities not only within the country but also outside the boundaries of the nation. The available human resource also has risk bearing capacity but still the present population is on the verge of negligence in the form of basic important tool for development and that is education. The data shows that still a great portion of the population has not received basic education to draw out their potential in the most effective manner and able to flow in the river of globalization. This situation according to the researcher could be deal with effective use of ICT in the country.

ICT Policy in India

Pyla (2012), in her research work stated that for India to emerge as a knowledge super power of the world has to concentrate more on the human resource development. For this to happen ICT (Information and Communications Technologies) has become within a very short time, one of the basic building blocks of modern society. We need to fully utilize the services of ICT as a tool in education. ICT's stand for information and communication technology and are defined for the purposes of this primer, as a " diverse set of technological tools and resources used to communicate and to create, disseminate, store and manage information".(Wikipedia)

ICT acts as a multiplier for capacity building efforts of educational institutions without compromising the quality and is also necessary to sustain a high growth rate of our economy through the capacity building and know empowerment of the people and for promoting new upcoming multidisciplinary fields of knowledge. The need of ICT in present education system is quite clear at all levels if one

need to enjoy the benefits in this globalized world. In the research work, Jindal (2013) has mentioned that for thousands of years, different countries have been doing trade with one another. But the process has got a tremendous boost in last about two decades due to high handed policies of International Monetary Fund, world bank and world trade organization who have been working on the agenda of developed countries like USA. So it is quite apparent that if one has to sustain in this era of globalization than one need to fully be able to access the technology effectively and efficiently.

Devi, Rizwaan & Chander (2012), concluded in their research work that ICT based education make teaching learning process more effective. Government of India has announced 2010-2020 as decade of innovation. Reasoning and critical thinking skills are necessary for innovation. "Education is governed by constitution of India. The quality of human resources of a country normally depends upon the quality of the education of the country. After independence, it has been the vision of Indian government to adopt some economic reforms. So, in 1991 our government adopted "LPG" that stands for Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation. These three are the most important weapons to enhance and to give new opportunities in higher education." (Kaur). In a recent report, as of 2014, there are 677 universities, 37,204 colleges and 11443 stand-alone institutions in India. In terms of enrollment India is the third largest higher education system in the world after China and the USA and the gross enrolment ratio is 21.1. The quantum growth and prospect in the Higher Education sector is controlled by Universities, Globalization advocates external liberalization on the beneficial out comes in terms of economic growth, employment and human welfare expected to flow from greater openness. Globalization is the ongoing process that link people, neighborhoods, cities, regions and countries more close together. This is the integration of economies, industries, markets, cultures and policy-making around the world. ICTs have been a fundamental part of this process.

ICT Policy of different countries

In the ICT policy handbook by Chris Nicol, stated, "The Oxford English Dictionary defines policy as "A course of action, adopted and pursued by a government, party, ruler, statesman, etc.; any course of action adopted as advantageous or expedient." While this definition suggests that policy is the realm of those in power governments or official institutions a wider sense could include the vision, goals, principles and plans that guide the activities of many different actors. ICT policy generally covers three main areas: telecommunications (especially telephone communications), broadcasting (radio and TV) and the internet. It may be national, regional or international. Each level may have its own decision-making bodies, sometimes making different and even contradictory policies." Different countries have different ICT policy as observed by Nicol, in his work. The Government of India has taken ICT initiatives and has laid down National ICT policy which is reflected and implemented through various Government departments and ministries.

"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". (MHRD,2012). 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. But the concerns of reach and access to education continue to attract widespread attention of all segments of society. According to the ICT policy of Seychelles, ICT has impacted the way business is conducted, facilitated learning and knowledge sharing, and generated global information flows, empowered citizens and communities, resulting in a global information society. Increasingly, ICT is playing the central cata-

lytic role in pushing the development process forward and boosting the efficiency of the increasingly integrated global economy.

Countries that have harnessed the potential of ICT have attained significant social and economic development. After the study of different country's ICT policies, the researcher focused on one of the leading country to harness the maximum utilization of ICT which is Sweden. Sweden is to have world-class broadband. All households and businesses have good opportunities to use electronic public services via broadband. This has been adopted in accordance with the bill Accessible Electronic Communications (Govt. Bill, Sweden). On 8-9 July. 2015 the 7th BRICS summit was held in Ufa, Russia. In the meeting all BRICS states were interested in cooperation in the sphere of information and communication technologies (ICT). Every BRICS states have advantage in one sphere or other. So, to break the monopoly in the IT market and in the Internet sphere, BRICS countries join hands to promote economic growth, development and sustenance.

Conclusion

The need of the hour is to harness and utilize the potential of the increasing human resource optimally in a best effective manner not only for the nation but globally. A well developed and effective digital infrastructure is necessary to cope with the increased use of ICT and to create the opportunities for greater competitiveness and innovation capacity that ICT offers. Digitalization is the key tool to enable the individuals to modernize the economy so that the new sustainable jobs are created in growing businesses. The Government should recognize the importance of ICT for stimulation of national development, modernization and globalization of the economy and creating the conditions for the fullest participation by all sections of the population through ICT literacy. The availability of ICT would be of no use if one cannot able to access it. Thus accessibility is necessary together with availability. Children should be introduced to the very early stage to the world of ICT. This will help them to master the skill at early stage and by the time they come in their youth, they could actually be connect to the world in a more efficient manner.

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