



Blending ICT in Teacher Education

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Abstract

The ICT revolution has influenced almost every aspect of human being including education. Teacher need to move with the times. For this the training of teacher in ICT skills is must. The various schemes and programmes have been launched both at government and nongovernment levels to develop ICT skills in teacher. Various Universities have designed specific courses for teacher education through ICT. ICT is a powerful and effective means for education.

Now a days there are many rapid changes occurred in the field of education. In this challenging world it is necessary to acquire much knowledge within less span of time; it can be only possible with the help of implication of ICT in the field of teacher education.

This paper focuses on meaning of blending, needs of ICT in teacher education, objectives of teacher education, how ICT blend in teacher education and effectively of blending ICT in teacher education.

Key Words:- ICT, Teacher Education

Introduction

ICT stand for information and communication technologies and defined as a 'diverse set of technological tools and resources used to communicate and to create

disseminate, store and manage information.' These technologies include computer, the internet, broadcasting technologies, radio, television, etc.

In recent years computer and internet are useful to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of education at all levels and both in formal and informal education. In India combines the use of print, recorded audio and video, broadcast radio, television and audio conferencing technologies for teacher education.

Meaning of blending

A blended learning approach combines face to face classroom methods with computer mediated activities to form an integrated instructional approach.

The goal of a blended approach is to join the best aspect of both face to face and online instruction. There are no rules for what ideas blend might be. The blend of face to face an online materials will vary depending on the content, the needs of the student teacher and the preferences of the instructor.

Meaning of Teacher Education

Teacher education refer to the policies and procedures and designed to equip prospective teachers with the knowledge, attitude, behaviours and skills they require to perform their tasks effectively in the classroom, school and wider community.

Teacher education is often divided into three stages

- 1) Initial teacher education: Pre service course before entering the classroom.
- 2) Induction teacher education: The process of providing training and support during the 1st few years of teaching or the 1st year in a particular school.
- 3) Teacher development or continuing professional development: In-service refresher courses for practicing teacher.

Objectives of teacher education in India:

General objectives of teacher education are:

- 1) To promote capabilities for inculcating national values and goals as mentioned in the constitution of India.
- 2) To act as agents of modernization and social change.
- 3) To promote social cohesion, international understanding and protection of human rights and rights of the child.
- 4) To use competencies and skills needed for becoming an effective teacher.
- 5) To be sensitive student teacher about emerging issues such as environment population, gender equality, legal literacy, etc.
- 6) To inculcate rational thinking and scientific temper among the student teachers.

Needs of ICT

- 1) Rapid broadcasting of knowledge.
- 2) Getting recent knowledge.
- 3) To get deep knowledge about any concept related to content.
- 4) To save time and energy.
- 5) Information sharing.
- 6) To get knowledge any time.
- 7) Broadcasting information through multimedia.
- 8) Applicable by many people.
- 9) Telecasting more knowledge with less cost.

Importance of ICT in teacher in teacher education

- 1) It makes learning more interesting especially for hard to understand content.
- 2) It bridges distances by using e-mails, phone, video conferencing, etc.
- 3) It breaks literacy barriers in communications by using video and radio.
- 4) It enhances interaction with peer over long distances.

- 5) It creates entertainment opportunities by games, music, video, etc.
- 6) It provides educational information through distance learning.
- 7) It provides health information including on sensitive issues.

Blending ICT in teacher education

In an era where the world of education and learning are changing rapidly, bringing new realities and challenges to teacher education institutions, through innovations in use of information and communication technologies has important implications. Today teacher education in India redesigned its curriculum and include the changes taking place across the world.

How ICT blend in teacher education

- 1) ICT is one of the compulsory subject in D.T.Ed. course in Maharashtra State:

In Maharashtra State since 2004 ICT is one of the compulsory subjects in D.T.Ed. Course. This subject include both theory and practical. In this subject more weightage is given for practical competencies so that student teachers acquaint with needs and importance of ICT in education.

- 2) Integrating ICT as a core subject at the B.Ed. level in University of Pune:

Realizing the importance of ICT in education, information and communication technology (ICT) was designed, developed and implemented in the B.Ed. programme offered by University of Pune, department of education. This subject also include also both theoretical and practical competencies of ICT.

- 3) Use of distributed classroom technology for distance teaching at SNTU University, Mumbai.

SNTU University, Mumbai was conducted 'distributed classroom technology' for distance teaching at SNTU University, in which various skills of using these new technologies such as presentation of the content using

PowerPoint or demonstrating content through flashcards were introduced and practiced to the teachers.

4) Beaming Educational programmes through satellites:

One of the objectives of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is to use satellite based communication capabilities in support of rural development.

Satellite is used for messaging data transmission, video conferencing and voice communication. Satellite is one of the source of teacher education through distance learning.

5) In-service training through power point presentation:

MSCERT, Pune conducted various in services training programmes for practice teachers. Now a days in this refresher courses knowledge has been updating through PowerPoint presentation, video conferencing and voice communication.

Effectivity of blending ICT in teacher education:

1) Update student teachers' knowledge:

Blending ICT in teacher education helpful for student teacher to update their knowledge because all upto date and recent knowledge is only available on computer and other medias of ICT.

2) Sharing information:

Blending ICT in teacher education helpful for sharing knowledge with the help of e mail, internet and video conferencing.

3) Create interest in teaching learning activities:

Blending ICT in teacher education creates interest of student teachers in teaching learning activities.

4) Distance education:

Blending ICT in teacher education is helpful for teacher to get education through distance education there are so many open universities in India which impart education through distance mode.

5) Deep impact on sense organs:

Blending ICT in teacher education has deep impact on student teachers' sense organs and they can learn effectively.

Conclusion

In this paper, an attempt was made to discuss blending ICT in teacher education. The paper acknowledge that today it is essential to combine face to face classroom teaching with innovative technologies such as satellite, T.V., radio, etc. as well as use distance learning, communication technology for effective learning. Blending ICT in teacher education has deep impact in the field of education but it will require a massive effort because “even small thing make a difference. Even if you cannot change people, you could make people aware of changes”

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