

**SURVEY TO DETERMINE THE PERCEPTION OF THE PUBLIC REGARDING  
THE IMPACT OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY****Paromita Das**

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**Abstract**

*Due to the vast population of our country most of the people are not in a position to get a single meal per day and not even proper clothing or shelter. Then how can we imagine them having access to technology. Educational Technology has not been much emphasized upon and no one from the group of teachers is eager to apply technologies in education. This is a common scenario although exceptions exist. Before implementing new technologies the policy makers and curriculum planners must be clear whether the previous common technologies have been made accessible to all the people in general and learners of various institutions in particular and quality control is available or not. Here in this study we will verify the perceptions. It is found that everyone has the need for educational technology and is aware of its merits and demerits but even they face a lot of difficulties due to lack of suitable financial and administrative support and access should be made equal to all to make learners and common people as efficient as possible*

**Keywords:** *technology, education, learners, quality, perceptions*

**Introduction:**

Recently we are talking about ‘Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan’ (SSA) to provide compulsory education to all students upto the age of 14 years. To achieve this a lot of effort has been taken by the Government in the form of policies like compulsory enrolment ,mid-day meal and stationary materials free of cost and also no-detention policy. Alongwith this we should be thinking about the concept and application of Educational Technology in the education system and create more awareness and facilities in this area both for learners and public.

**Research Problem:** Very few among the Public have an idea about Educational Technology. For them it is a new concept and their perception is to be determined.

**Statement of the Problem:** To determine the perception of the public regarding the impact of Educational Technology.

- Objectives of the study:**
- 1.To know what the public feel about the impact of Educational Technology on society.
  2. To know what the public feel about the impact of Educational Technology on education or teaching and learning.
  3. To know what are the benefits they receive from mass media or communication technology.
  - 4.To know what are the difficulties they face while accessing the Computer technology.

- Experiences of the survey:**
- 1.Most of the students were reluctant to give responses on the topic of Educational Technology.
  2. Some basic guidelines had to be given to them before interviewing.
  3. It could be understood that most of them had interest to study with the help of Technology in Education.

**Method of the study: Tools for the study:** Self-developed Interview Schedule as given below:

1. Name the various educational technologies known by you.
2. What benefits do you get from Mass media?
3. Can you recollect any problems you faced by not accessing ICT?
4. Tell me both the positive and negative impact of ICT.
5. How can a learner use electronic media most efficiently?
6. What developments can be done in ICT?
7. What are the various skills a teacher should possess?
8. Why do you feel that technology is useful for all the people?

**Techniques for the study-**

Some basic questions have been asked to the public verbally in the form of an interview in a face-to-face situation where they have expressed their views comfortably.

Questions were in an open form where they were free to express or share their experiences.

This way it helped to provide an in-depth and detailed response.

**Nature of the data sought-**

Opinion and perception of the public about the influence of educational technology on society in general and on education or teaching-learning process in particular.

**Sampling technique** – Simple Random Sampling.

**Sample-**

A random sample of about 25 adults have been selected from the locality consisting of some adults in different profession and B.Ed.students (session 2013-2014 of Regular One-year B.Ed.course) of Siliguri B.Ed. College ( Address: Near University of North Bengal, Dist: Darjeeling , West Bengal, PIN: 734011) who have some idea about Educational Technology since it is included in their syllabus.

(B.Ed. means Bachelor of Education , a degree sought as a training to become teachers or an orientation for those who are already in-service teachers , especially for the secondary level in schools)

**Analysis and interpretation of the data:**

The perceptions of the public and B.Ed. trainees on educational technology surveyed through an interview are given below-

**Name of the B.Ed.Trainee**

**Perceptions**

( Real names)

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Bhanu Kumar Roy | Computer-aided learning, CCTV (Closed –circuit Television) camera and Teleconferencing are used for imparting education.ICT helps a person to get all the information sitting at home. ATM Services are provided.LAN makes official work very easy.Internet makes library an information centre.Nowadays teachers do not show interest in using technologies.Students’ social background is a shortcoming for imparting education through electronic media.Some people get sufficient information while others get poorly educated without technology and they are not well informed by other sources.Todays’ learner needs technology in classroom to develop their creativity and |
|--------------------|---|

for a real-like exposure. Activity-based education is the interest area of learners.

(ICT means Information and Communication Technology, ATM means Asynchronous Transfer Mode which is a concept used in the telecommunications or networking field for carrying user traffic which includes voice, video signals and data and another full form also is Automated Teller Machine. ATM is an electro-mechanical machine that is used for making financial transactions from a bank account. These machines are used to withdraw money from personal bank accounts and LAN means Local Area Network)

2. Parimal Sarkar

CAL, Video/Radio Conferencing and Internet are the types of technology. Newspaper, Television and Book Fairs are the medium of ICT. We can find its impact in digital classrooms and computer-aided learning. Sometimes language problem is a barrier for imparting education through electronic media. Students are also not used to many of these media. Village people still do not know about the improvement in technology. Creative and smart classes are the needs of today's learner and they are interested to access more of the technologies.

(CAL means Computer-assisted Learning)

3. Sanjoy Mondal

CAI, Video and Teleconferencing are the types of technology used in schools. With the help of ICT farmers get the weather report so easily. Mobile Banking is useful to the busy people. Overhead Projector and LAN-Local area networking are the sources of ICT. Most of the students do not have the basic knowledge of Computer. Government is still unable to provide more number of computers. Mobile technology is still unavailable in interior

areas whereas in a city even the school children carry mobiles with them. Nowadays learners want to have more access to computers and study in their own language. Learners' interest areas are technical education and they need real teachers who give knowledge and also guide them.

(ICT means Information and Communication Technology)

4. Anwesha Dutta

In the past it took long time to send messages or news but now with the help of internet, news or messages are sent via e-mail to friends, business partners or anyone efficiently. But the negative impact is that people tend to be more individualistic or introvert and theft, hacking, pornography and online gambling are generating threat to the society and in moral decay. The use of ICT on formal education enables students to collect information through internet. Too much use of ICT results in moral degradation of young generation. Frequent use of electronic media affects the habit of learning. The rapid processing skills may leave fewer chances for comprehension and retention. Most of the people in our country are still deprived of the advantages of ICT and those who can access ICT establish a strong connection with the outer world and become more civilized than those people. A country's growth and development is possible only if all can use ICT. Due to family problems many parents cannot continue further studies and they want their children to complete a Masters degree atleast

and for this internet will be useful to get all the academic information. At present learners are more interested in technology-based teaching and learning process. They like to learn lessons through audio-visual systems more than the lecture-based teaching method.

(e-mail means electronic mail for sending messages and file attachments via computers using the internet)

5. Biswajit Datta

Films and Radio recordings are used for imparting education at higher level. ICT makes the daily life very easy. So our age is the age of information. OHP, Motion pictures, LAN are the sources of ICT. Teachers are yet not able to use technology. Lack of technology is a problem for people in some areas. Along with ICT today's learner needs value education. Learners' interest areas are job-oriented courses.

(ICT means Information and Communication Technology, OHP means Overhead Projector and LAN means Local Area Network)

6. Rohini Lama

Audio-visual aids like projectors, video, Discs, radio, cassettes, blackboard, charts, Computers, internet etc. are the technology for imparting education. ICT improves the efficiency and effectiveness of education. It also improves the standard of formal education and makes the learning process easier for students. There should be a lot of money for electronic media and electricity supply should also be uninterrupted. In the earlier days classroom was monotonous which made the students inactive and bored. Today's classroom handles various strategies

- through ICT to make students participate in the teaching-learning process.
- 7.Sebika Das Face to face communication is less and more Online.Students can gather more information through internet.But spending more time on online chatting disturbs their regular studies. In India power cut is a regular problem and Electronic media will become paralyzed and hamper the studies or continuity of work in Offices or other work place.Those who cannot access ICT are detached from the modern world.Nowadays learners are interested in problem-solving method of learning and learning by doing and not just sitting and listening to lectures of teachers.
- 8.Chitrita Moitra With the capability of bandwidth and Broadband and connection speed on internet information can travel faster at an instant.It saves time and is inexpensive.But people tend to choose online communication rather than having real time conversations.In formal education the traditional method of teaching is still followed therefore ICT can be used to update students' knowledge and use of technology.Sometimes the electronic media can be misused by students in playing online games.Those who access ICT get different educational opportunities and others cannot. At present time students are getting interest by audio-visual learning and different types of presentations which make them interact with teachers and each other.
- 9.Madhawee Shah ICT is one of the technologies and others are used in medicinal and agricultural purposes

and also Biotechnology. Society is getting developed but some section of people are not aware of ICT. The availability of ICT helps students to get latest knowledge and develop themselves. But use of electronic media such as Television, mobiles and computers display content with no age limitations and children are misguided and many people can misuse such things. Though most of the families are below poverty line the government is providing facilities for education to all who can use ICT.

10. Pijush Kanti Roy

Power point presentation, CCTV, Internet are the modern technologies. ICT helps people to be well informed about the world. Students know the latest developments in educational field. LAN and CAI are the examples of ICT in Formal education. Proper administrative facilities are not found for ICT. Students in villages are still not aware of the recent educational developments. Good teachers is the need of today's learners. Activity-based curriculum is the interest area of learners.

( CCTV means Closed-circuit Television, ICT means Information and Communication Technology , LAN means Local Area Network and CAI means Computer-assisted Instruction).

11. Rathika Subba

Video conferencing, CAL, Smart Class are the Technologies. ICT is implemented in the form of Newspaper, Television and science fairs. Formal education is getting improved with frequent use of OHP and internet facilities in library and computer labs. Social background of students is a hindrance to effective use of ICT. Teachers are not well educated to use ICT.



( CAL means Computer-assisted Learning, ICT means Information and Communication Technology and OHP means Overhead Projector)

12.Ratna Saha

Audio-visual aids, OHP, LAN are popular today. Television, Magazine, publicity, mobiles, ATM are seen in the modern society. Power point slides are used in classrooms for teaching the topics in detail but in less time. More arrangements should be made by the Government to provide electronic media to all the people and in all sectors. Village people still depend on post offices for money transfer. Online services are not known to them. Well-trained teachers are the need to access ICT. Internet always remains the interest area of learners.

(LAN means Local Area Network and ATM means both Asynchronous Transfer Mode in Networking and Automated Teller Machines in banking sector)

13.Bimal Das

Computer aided instruction is the necessity of today's learners. Latest information can be obtained about any sectors-Banking, Agriculture etc. through ICT. Projectors and internet are the recent developments in ICT. Lack of infrastructure and basic idea are the shortcomings for imparting education through electronic media. Computerised postal and banking services are not found in villages. Learners need technology-based curriculum.

(ICT means Information and Communication Technology)

14.Jayanta Kumar Paul

CAL, INSAT, Teleconferencing are

latest technologies. ICT has helped us in form of mass media like T.V. and radio or book fairs. Family background of students should be improved. ICT gives enlightenment. To access ICT English language should be strong. (

CAL means Computer-assisted Learning, INSAT means Satellite Television or Indian National Satellite System which is a series of multipurpose Geo-stationary satellites launched by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for telecommunications, broadcasting, meteorology, search and rescue operations and T.V. means Television)

15. Sarit Mazumder

Under the scope of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) CAI is provided to most of the schools. Learning becomes interesting. Films can be shown on slides to create awareness among students and broaden the realm of knowledge, shaping our opinions, information boom, transmit of cultural ethos. ICT is a form of learner centered method of teaching. Trained personnel are lacking to use ICT. Private Schools provide better infrastructural facilities. But funding should be uniform.

(CAI means Computer-assisted Instruction)

16. Sangeeta Santra

Magazines and journals are the ICT tools. Speakers or sound-boxes are also used in classroom for teaching command. Daily life cannot be imagined without ICT. Distance learning and online tutorials are accessing ICT. Research work becomes easy. But Sometimes manual work is done by Computers and many people become jobless. Interaction power reduces and

those who cannot use ICT become frustrated and depend on others.

(ICT means Information and Communication Technology)

17.Poulumi Chakraborty Smart board alongwith internet and Projectors are the technological devices.Use of technologies is very much restricted in West Bengal board schools as compared to C.B.S.E.or I.C.S.E. Newspapers and science Journals are a part of technology.They help in instant communication and give massive source of information. Television and mobiles provide entertainment.Social networking may run the risk of lack of privacy.Students are motivated and are more active.

(C.B.S.E. means Central Board of Secondary Education, I.C.S.E.means Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations)

18.Anindita Ghosh Smart phones,laptops,webcameras, Whiteboards,broadcasting media like Television and radios, and computers are the sources of information.All this has helped in worldwide participation. But long hours of work on computers reduce physical activity.People become lazy.Students perform well in competitive examinations.Teachers should know how to manage virtual classroom.

19.Geeta Lohar Computers help the students in School projects.Science articles increase their interest in science. Newspapers give current information. Dependency on electronic media has

made them lose their book reading habits.Children who access ICT are doing better in schools.Others are feeling inferior and depressed.Inspite of ICT developments children are still illiterate in our country.Learners need well-equipped libraries and labs.

20.Debarati Roy

ICT has not yet much impact on lower levels of education.Computers have created connection with the whole world but moral values are disappearing.People gain knowledge to be qualified and get good jobs.But adequate opportunities are not yet provided to the people to access ICT. Those who can access are also using it for social welfare.

(ICT means Information and Communication Technology)

**Names of the other people**

**Perceptions**

(Real names)

21.Liton Das (**Teacher at B.S.F.School, Kadamtala, Dist: Darjeeling**)

People get updated in their respective professions with ICT. Information is spread very easily.Library information can also be obtained from internet which is called inflibnet (information library network).

Students are still shaky about accessing ICT. Infrastructure is to be arranged to access ICT.Learners like to be involved in enrichment activities.

**22.Sanjoy Roy (Teacher at Army Public School, Bengdubi, Bagdogra, Dist: Darjeeling)**

Smart classes are prevalent today. Audio and video conferencing are also used at higher levels of education.

Both the socio-economic status and Government budget should be improved. Interior villagers do not know about Government schemes of using ICT. Learners like practical based activities.

**23.Smriti Sharma (Dentist at North Bengal Dental Clinic, Sevoke More, Siliguri, Dist: Darjeeling)**

ICT has helped in wider knowledge in all subjects. But still it remains expensive.

Good power supply is essential. Trained professionals are also required. The rural and urban division remains. Internet knowledge and computer operation skills are the needs.

**24.Aman Subba (Self-employed)**

Hardware and software both are included in technology.

Audio and visual learning is possible through ICT. People can get the latest news.

Equipments are needed to use ICT.

Telephone and Fax (Facsimile) are also forms of technology . A wide range of study materials are available on internet.

(ICT means Information and Communication Technology and FAX means Facsimile, also known as telefax or telecopying, or telefacsimile, is basically a mode of telephonic transmission, which transmits scanned material (in text as well as images format) to a telephone number, which is connected to an output device such as a printer.)

25.Hedwig Lama ( Owns St.Teresa School, Sibmandir, Dist:Darjeeling and also a Teacher)

Mobile phones are becoming part of our lives. Society is crippled without ICT. Trained manpower and infrastructure are necessary for electronic media. Learners' need is to be computer literate. Internet and quick communication is their interest area.

### **Conclusion/Findings:**

Both the trainees and the general people belonging to Teaching or any other profession have agreed that Technology is very essential for the awareness of the Public and to make the teaching and learning effective. Everyone should be given the facility to access the Information and Communication Technology whether from Knowledge aspect or to keep oneself updated in today's world. At present there is a lack of modern techniques in remote schools and colleges. Even the teachers and staff are unable to apply technology in their classrooms and other academic work. They should be trained to use this as efficiently as possible and this will bring about a sense of achievement in both teachers and students. Students will develop the eagerness to learn and the public can develop confidence and power of judgement in their day to day lives.

### **References**

*No references have been taken because the above study is totally based on survey and then summing up the points in the form of conclusion.*