Abstract

Use of Information and Communication Technology in rural education without Internet

At present Government and NGOs are emphasizing use of technology to improve quality of education in rural area. In India approximately seventy percent of student population lives in rural area and only nine percent of them have access to internet. So, the approximate distribution of population in rural & urban area is 70:30 and infrastructural facilities are 30:70 respectively. Basic needs of education are

1. Infrastructure – Classrooms, play area and hygiene
2. Equipments: benches, boards, books, magazines, computers, projectors, internet etc.
3. Man power – As per the survey Annual status of education report, shows that the number of school going students is increasing, but the outcome is not satisfactory. One teacher is responsible for more than two classes. Young generation is not interested in teaching field and more than that in rural areas. The reasons behind this are known. Ultimately the education in private schools (in cities) is better than in rural areas.

   Infrastructure and equipments can be provided by allocating funds but allocation of qualitative manpower is a big issue for Government as well as NGOs.

The villagers, farmers know the importance of education and it is the only way to get rid of poverty. The technology can help to improve the situation. In a country like India there are many obstacles in using Information Technology and Communication in day today life.

Computer Literacy: People use internet on phone. In 2015 and 2016 saw a drastic growth in individual users but there is a reluctance in adopt broad band connection for business or an institute. Companies have investment plans to provide broadband connections. Broad band penetration is slow in 2011-15, but somewhat increased in 2016 because of Digital India Plan. As per the internetlivestats report only thirty four percent people can access internet in a country.

Still internet is limited to an individual not a general term. Organizations are not ready to provide free internet access to employees or students. There is a fear that users will misuse it or waste time on accessing net. Partially it is true in India people take undue advantage of facilities.

Mentality - Still Indian mentality does not allow to use Internet for business, education or banking. Use of technology is gender biased. Men have access to internet as women by choice are not interested in using technology. Schools, colleges do not use online courses or You Tube videos.

Connectivity- Suppose a person is ready to use internet what about connectivity? The material available on internet needs huge broadband connectivity continuously. It needs speed and unlimited download to use You Tube which is expensive. To repeat the sessions one has to spend on internet. Same facility is not available at home for revision.

Material- Huge material is available on internet, it is difficult to find relevant videos or courses to the topic. To find right video, one has to go through 50 videos or articles.

Infrastructure: The condition of schools in rural area is pathetic. A Survey showed that teacher student ratio is 1:80 and buildings, toilets, classrooms are other issues. It is impractical to spend money on Information Technology devices or internet. How can one expect quality education in this campus?

Teaching: Teachers are over loaded with non-teaching work, their skills are not developed. Appointment is not only on merit or skill. No doubt they will develop their skills. ICT will definitely help them to develop their skills. Experienced teachers can become role model for them. Students' develop interest in particular subject because he likes the way teacher taught him. Teacher's dedication plays vital role in teaching learning process. It must not depend on Connectivity, infrastructure, Government policies etc. It's not individual responsibility of that teacher or a school. Teacher community should take an effort to deliver quality education in rural area.

To overcome above obstacles video content is developed by experienced teacher.

Equipment used:

1. Personal Computer.
2. Headphone with mic
3. Downloadable software- Ice scream screen recorder.

Content:

1. Transcript
2. Power point presentation

It is tailor made video, considering Indian students' IQ and understanding. Local examples were considered so that they can pick up a point easily. Ice cream recorder is easy to use screen recorder where user can mark figures and statements. It creates video file which can be executed using any generally available media player. The language used is simple and interactive.

I visited personally to VPS college lonavala and conducted video lecture for BCA students. It was internet free video lecture. The emphasis is given on this point (internet free), because I personally faced many problems with Internet connectivity, range and speed.

With this research activity following points can be noted

1. It saved time i.e. it took 30 minutes to cover three difficult topics.
2. Students were happy because it was multimedia and their regular subject
3. No chalk and board.
4. Regular lectures take more time to explain a point. Because students used to chit chat or disturb or distract the class. I found pin drop silence throughout the lecture. All of them were enjoying videos prepared specifically for them.
5. Joint effort by experienced and new teachers and students.

Primary data is collected through

1. Questionnaire before the session
2. Questionnaire after the session.
3. Feedback form

Data analyzed statistically using ‘F test’. The hypothesis is proved.

Though it’s an Information technology era infrastructure is not yet adequate. Experienced and good teachers can extend their scope of teaching. New teachers can learn new methods of teaching through this process. Schools can appoint technical team to assist experienced teachers. School management can provide material in pen drives instead of books.

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