



SOCIAL RELEVANCE OF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY IN INDIA

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Abstract

India is a developing country where development is required in each and every sphere of life. Information & Communication Technology plays a significant role in the social set-up of Indian society. Indian Government has also realized that ICT can offer social benefits, so that the Government has started large programs to improve the level of health, education, agriculture, business and to offer government services to their citizens. Information & Communication Technology producing new forms of social interaction and changing ways that people of our society engage with policies of government. In the present Indian context we can't deny the importance of ICT as it plays a vital role in communication. The usage of ICT is increasing day by day. So this paper mainly focuses on the social relevance of ICT in India.

Key Words: Social Relevance, Information & Communication Technology



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INTRODUCTION

In ancient times, the source of communication is only messengers and letters. In fact communication is some what difficult at that time because people were living far away from one another. Firstly they want to live together in a common place for their own security from wild animals. Then they have need of petty animals for their livelihood. After that they knew the value of farming for their food, this need leads to the agriculture revolution. After the development in agriculture field, the life of Indian people become better. The production of different crops were increased, and they have decided to establish industry and for industry, technology is must required, this leads to Industrial revolution. Technology plays

an important role in the field of industry and it is also significant in the field of education also. At present, there is not enough time to meet each other, now the problem of communication arises at work place and at home environment. So the only solution to this problem is ICT, because it provides various options for communication with each other e.g. mobile phones, e-mail, teleconferencing and social networking sites like face book, twitter, flicker etc. Information and communication are the activities which essential to society. Every individual must have the means and access to information and should be able to exercise the right to freedom of opinion and expression, which includes the right to observe the content, receive and convey information and ideas through any form of media.

Social Relevance of ICT in India

India is a country of diverse cultures, different religions, and various castes, people have different customs, different thinking, different living style. So in this concern, ICT has its relevance in Indian social context in present scenario. Here some points are given below that shows the social relevance of ICT in India:

Rate of increase in social sites : there is rapid growth in the number of social networking sites like face book, twitter, whets app. The only role of these sites is to develop human relationship and for communication with maximum people in less time. These sites provide us the opportunity to find our relatives and friends who are far away from us. These sites are helpful for the people to share their views on some common idea. Most of the Indian people use these sites for communication or education purpose only. But in other countries the purpose is not only the communication but also for the business or trade, intellectual development and music purpose. The use of these sites in other countries is less to develop human relationship as comparison to India.

Relevance for Indian students: It creates feeling of co-operation among students for their learning when they interact with each other through ICT. It makes their learning interactive with the use of power point including sound and video. It provides flexibility to the learners and makes their learning enjoyable. In this concern virtual learning, online learning, flexible learning, computer assisted learning, mobile learning etc. also the choices provided by the Information & Communication Technology.

Helpful in Social Research : ICT plays a crucial role to conduct the descriptive type social research in Indian Institutions. When we conduct this type of research we need a lot of data regarding the research then only internet provide this data for our present investigation because many of the valuable data is given on the different sites. ICT also provide us the

reviews related to the different research topics, so the availability of this type of valuable data is really very helpful for the students who are involve in conducting the research.

Helpful in experiments of science: security of any nation is depends upon their citizens, their government , and their army. A few decades ago India is not powered with nuclear or atomic powers. India is always in favour of peace and non-violence, but for security purpose there is an urgent need of experimentation in science. Indian government wants to use the nuclear power for the development of Indian society. So ICT provide us the bases for the experiments because science is based on technology. Different nuclear projects have been started only for the welfare of the masses.

Social relevance of ICT for Administration : ICT has its administrative purpose. ICT has used in almost all the offices of administration e.g. police headquarters , tehsil , mini sectriate, e- disha centres and in courts etc. In these Administrative offices most of the records is available online. If the working of the administration is good it would create a good social environment in the society.

Social Sustainability: The ICT industry is helping to achieve social sustainability by improving the way of Indian society and government provide education, healthcare, and services to the people of India. In addition , the ICT is changing the way people interact with each other, developing longer-term and principally constructive changes in the different areas of Indian society

Provides easy access to the people: The ICT is the main factor for the recent changes of the life of Indian people . ICT is easy to use, and it is in the access of rural people of India. This easy access help the peoples to communicate with each other and to provide them valuable matter. If ICT is in the reach of rural people of India it would lead the Indian society on the path of development. In this concern according to World Bank Report, “Current ICT initiatives tend to focus on infrastructure development and the extension of information and communication services from the centre to the periphery (World Bank, 1999)”.

Helpful in social change: ICT plays a very prominent role in developing social or liberal thinking in Indian society, because it provides a common stage for all the people to share their views on various social problems i.e. dowry system , female foeticide , domestic violence etc. ICT provides us very valuable thoughts of the great thinkers , educationist in printed form on many sites of internet. This is very helpful in bringing positive social change and healthy social environment. There are many other aspects of technology and have their positive impact on society. Mobile phones and their applications e.g. whets app , sms text

messaging are very important means of communication that do facilitate social changes(see Rheingold 2002.)

Helpful in national integration : Integration at national level is required for each nation if the nation wants to be developed in every aspect. National integration is possible with the help of ICT. It provides a common platform for all, to express their views on different problems of the nation. In the time of emergency, a speech of courage and enthusiasm on national integration can be telecast on various news channels through the use of information & communication technology. So in this way it is helpful in developing the feeling of nationality among Indian people.

ICT as a teaching tool : if we use ICT effectively as a teaching tool it would create a good teaching learning environment in the present Indian class rooms. Development of ICT has provided new opportunities for delivering instructions in schools, colleges and in universities in innovative ways. So it has its importance for teachers also to make their teaching effective in a number of ways. As it said that today's students, tomorrow's leader and if a student get good instructions from his teacher, he will be surely tomorrow's leader and a good leader leads his nation on the path of success. And if we provide quality teaching learning instruction to the students with the help of ICT it makes tomorrow's nation strong.

Facility of online service: ICT provide us the facility of online service. In present Indian context, there is facility of online e.g. online registration for counselling in various courses, online applications, online passport registration, online shopping online air ticketing, online education, online courses, online purchasing, online e- journals etc. and many more. So the online service is also very helpful for Indian people to make their daily life easy and meaningful.

Social protection: Social protection has an important place in the life of human being whether male or female. If he or she is not fully secure in social aspects, he or she can never attain their aim of life. Every individual wants social protection for their proper growth and development. ICT provides us social protection by providing helpline numbers or by online registration of complaint. Police headquarters, women protection cell, and other important government bodies are connected with each other through internet. They are ready for any kind of help for the citizens.

Conclusion : Without the use of information & communication technology, we can't imagine the development of Indian society. ICT affects almost all spheres of our life i.e. individual, social, economic, intellectual, teaching learning etc. So on the whole we can

say that ICT has its much social relevance in the developing country like India. ICT proves as a tool for social development in India.

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