



T A PAI MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

MANIPAL - 576104

Research Seminar

ICT and Education

*Deploying information and communication technologies
to make secondary level education more effective*

Speaker

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3:00 PM, March 24th, 2010

Class Room: F2, TAPMI Campus

ALL ARE INVITED

Abstract

While education and literacy are two closely interrelated concepts the two are often confused with each other. A higher level of literacy does not necessarily mean / imply a higher level of education. A case in point is the state of Kerala. Although the state has, since several decades, been leading the country in social literacy levels, its performance in the education field is far from impressive. In the areas of professional courses and university education, the quality of output leaves much to be desired. One must seek the roots of this sad state of affairs in school education itself.

Hence the present study focuses on high school education. The methodology followed is the following:

First, we try and understand what we mean by education. An initial literature survey led to reading up of a number of thinkers and writers in the field (Gandhi, Dewey, et al), and studying of relevant contemporary documents (NCF-2005; IT in Education - Vision 2010, etc.). On the basis of undertaking this study the content, process, and desired outcomes of education are defined. Next an attempt is made to see how far the reality measures up to the desirable state. In this regard we have chosen Kerala for doing an empirical study. The educational reforms at the school level, under way in the state for more than a decade now, provided the apt backdrop. Introduction of IT as a tool to improve quality of education had been taken up since 2000, *after* carrying out the above reforms for a number of years.

A key distinction made and maintained throughout the study is between viewing IT, or ICT to be more precise, as an additional subject of study in the school curriculum vis-à-vis looking at and using ICT as a tool of teaching [and learning] of various [as well as varied] subjects of school study. Certainly, viewing and using ICT as a tool [for enhancing quality of education] is what is of crucial interest for this study. It must be put on record here that the IT@School project in Kerala, started around 2003, has taken exactly this specific stance throughout.

Both secondary and primary data collection done up till now points to the potential of a fruitful study and learning of the following questions / issues:

- How far can ICT go and contribute in the enhancement of education quality?
- How much can ICT help to make high school education more effective?

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