ROLE OF ICT AND INTERNET IN EDUCATION

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Introduction

We are living in a constantly evolving digital world. ICT has an impact on nearly every aspect of our lives - from working to socialising, learning to playing. The digital age has transformed the way young people communicate, network, seek help, access information and learn. We must recognise that young people are now an online population and access is through a variety of means such as computers, TV and mobile phones.

As technology becomes more and more embedded in our culture, we must provide our learners with relevant and contemporary experiences that allow them to successfully engage with technology and prepare them for life after school.

It is widely recognised that learners are motivated and purposefully engaged in the learning process when concepts and skills are underpinned with technology and sound pedagogy. Education Scotland provides advice on resources for practitioners, parents and pupils to engage with these technologies in order to inform and enhance the learning experience.

The Internet as Teaching Tool

Most teenagers say the Internet's ability to help them with their schoolwork and to help them learn new things is one of its best features. This potential role as educational tool is often the primary reasons why families get Internet access. Three-quarters of online teens (78%) say the Internet helps them do their schoolwork-47% say it helps them a lot. Parents agree with their online children that Internet helps with learning. Fully 93% believe that the Internet helps children learn new things. Eighty-seven percent of these parents say the Internet helps children with their schoolwork. And 95% of these parents say it is important for children to learn about the Internet in order to be a success later in life; 55% say it is essential. Teachers agree: 96% of teachers surveyed by SBC say that knowledge of and use of the Internet is an essential aspect of communication today.

Teenagers use the Internet as an essential study aid outside the classroom and that the Internet increasingly has a place inside the classroom. Findings from a survey of 754 youths ages 12-17 conducted November and December 2000 include: 94% who have Internet access say they use the Internet for school research, and 78% say they believe the Internet helps them with schoolwork; 71% say that they used the Internet as the major source for their most recent major school project or report; 41% say they use e-mail and instant messaging to contact teachers or classmates about schoolwork; 34% have downloaded an online study aid; 18% say they know of someone who has used the Internet to cheat on a paper or test;

The Role of ICT in Education Sector

Nowadays the role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), especially internet in the education sector plays an important role, especially in the process of empowering the technology into the educational activities. Education sector can be the most effective sector to anticipate and eliminate the negative impact of ICT. Technology (internet) in another side can be the most effective way to increase the student's knowledge.

Being aware of the significant role of ICT (internet) in our life, especially in the educational activities, education authorities should be wise enough in implementing the strategies to empower ICT in supporting the teaching and learning process in the classroom. ICT is not just the bloom of the educational activities, but also it will be the secondary option to improve the effective and meaningful educational process.

The main purpose of the Strategy for Information and Communication Technology Implementation in Education is to provide the prospects and trends of integrating information and communication technology (ICT) into the general educational activities.

Aim and Objectives of ICT Implementation in Education:

1. to implement the principle of life-long learning / education.
2. to increase a variety of educational services and medium / method.
3. to promote equal opportunities to obtain education and information.
4. to develop a system of collecting and disseminating educational information.
5. to promote technology literacy of all citizens, especially for students.
6. to develop distance education with national contents.

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7. to promote the culture of learning at school (development of learning skills, expansion of optional education, open source of education, etc.)
8. to support schools in sharing experience and information with others.

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