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A STUDY ON IMPLEMENTATION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN PROFESSIONAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The information and communication technologies have now become part of almost all industry and institutes. Present day institutes imparting professional education are facing tough competition. Their infrastructure development requires use of latest tools and technologies apart from regular teaching practices. This paper focuses on the various methods which can be used as a part of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) in Institutes providing Professional education.

KEYWORDS: *Professional education, Higher Education, Professional institutes, use of ICT, Managerial practices, Information technology.*

INTRODUCTION

The professional educational institutes in India are on a paradigm shift in present educational system. A number of professional institutes are coming up with new ideas of management using latest infrastructure and *ICT (Information and Communication Technology)*. These systems start functioning right from the time of admission till the placements. A good management as defined by different authors has been divided into functions viz. planning, organizing, staffing, coordination, control.

Information and communication technology has changed the traditional processes which were slow and low yielding. As the number of professional institutes are on the increase a system with latest IT tools helps to manage and work effectively. The use

of latest technology helps these institutes to organize the data and provide systematic guidance to the students.

These systems also help the teachers to interact with the students and provide guidance. Information and communication technology even helps the organizations to form a network and share the ideas globally. This eliminates the need of student and faculty exchange programs. Students can submit online assignments and perform group activities in network apart from the institutes. The use of IT opens a plethora of opportunities to the students. This paper studies some of the points which help the institutes to adapt an It based environment.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

- Singh, J. D. (2015) discusses the issues and challenges faced by the higher education institutes in India. He suggests that a new set of institutes need to be developed with skilled people and latest infrastructure.
- Saxena, V., Kulstrtha, S., & Khan, B. (2010) suggest that a modern approach should be followed by the institutes in India. They further suggest the idea of knowledge revolution and a need for proper human resource development.
- Krishnaveni, R., & Meenakumari, J. (2010) studied that use of ICT should enhance overall administration of the institution. Payroll, inventory management, library systems should be supported by IT based methods. The authors also suggest a theoretical model for implementing use of ICT in educational institutes

OBJECTIVE

The study compares the pedagogy and use of IT based services provided by three categories of institutes (Government, Autonomous and Private) regarding the expected and perceived quality of pedagogy, e-learning, ERP and IT infrastructure.

METHODOLOGY

For the purpose of this study a Qualitative percentage analysis has been used. Along with it a tabular comparison was considered. The views and opinion of the respondents (students) was studied

by a descriptive research method. The respondents were chosen from three categories of institutes viz. Government, Autonomous and Private professional Institutes.

(i) Primary Data

A questionnaire developed on basic points was used as the research tool for scheme of the present study. The questionnaire consists of 20 choice based questions. These questions were related to the Pedagogy, e-learning, ERP and IT infrastructure facilities.

(ii) Secondary Data

The secondary data was collected from the internet based article, published sources and the official websites of professional institutes.

SAMPLE DESIGN

- (i) **Sample Area:** Three categories of Institutes were taken for the study viz. Government, Autonomous and Private Institutes
- (ii) **Sample Size:** The sample consists of 120 students of above three categories of institutes. A band of 40 students was considered from each institute.

STATISTICAL DESIGN

Following table shows a tabular comparison of various points of study regarding all the three categories of institutes:

| S.No | Particulars | Government. Institutes | | Autonomous Institutes | | Private Institutes | |
|------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|
| | | YES (%) | NO (%) | YES (%) | NO (%) | YES (%) | NO (%) |
| | Pedagogy | | | | | | |
| 1 | Curriculum is qualitative | 67 | 33 | 81 | 18 | 46 | 54 |
| 2 | Satisfactory Tools for teaching | 28 | 72 | 87 | 13 | 78 | 22 |
| 3 | Assignments and Online submissions | 19 | 81 | 67 | 33 | 59 | 41 |
| 4 | Problem Solving using online system | 0 | 100 | 77 | 23 | 61 | 39 |
| 5 | Projects | 55 | 45 | 86 | 14 | 88 | 12 |
| 6 | Learning through official websites | 57 | 43 | 69 | 31 | 65 | 35 |
| | E-Learning | | | | | | |
| 7 | Online database Subscription | 6 | 94 | 84 | 16 | 79 | 21 |
| 8 | Subscription to e-journals | 53 | 47 | 88 | 12 | 76 | 24 |
| 9 | E-library software | 06 | 94 | 99 | 01 | 89 | 11 |
| 10 | 24X7 Access | 0 | 100 | 80 | 20 | 75 | 25 |
| | Managing with ERP | | | | | | |
| 11 | ERP Softwares | 0 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| 12 | Online Attendance record | 0 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| 13 | Online Internal Assessment | 0 | 100 | 74 | 26 | 87 | 13 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|----|-----|----|----|----|----|
| | record | | | | | | |
| 14 | Online Fee Payment | 0 | 100 | 80 | 20 | 72 | 28 |
| 15 | Documents submission and access | 0 | 100 | 78 | 22 | 92 | 08 |
| 16 | Satisfaction of Overall ERP process | 0 | 100 | 82 | 18 | 89 | 11 |
| | IT Infrastructure | | | | | | |
| 17 | LAN & WiFi | 24 | 76 | 91 | 09 | 98 | 02 |
| 18 | Computer Lab(No. of Computers) | 62 | 38 | 84 | 16 | 89 | 11 |
| 19 | E-Attendance | 0 | 100 | 68 | 72 | 81 | 19 |
| 20 | LCD projectors | 69 | 31 | 92 | 08 | 96 | 04 |

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

The study was based on the professional institutes of Indore city of Madhya Pradesh.

RESULTS

Following results were derives from the above comparison:

1. Pedagogy:

- It is observed that most of the students in Autonomous institutes (81%) are satisfied with the curriculum while in private institutes and govt. institutes the number is less as the course content is not upgraded regularly.
- Latest teaching aids are being used in Private institutes (87%) and Autonomous institutes (78%) but the govt. institutes still use traditional methods (28%)
- Assignments and Online submissions are being given mostly in Autonomous institutes (67%) and private institutes (59%)
- Problem Solving using online system are being given mostly in Autonomous institutes (77%) and private institutes (61%)
- Projects are given in all categories of institutes but most of them are given in Autonomous (86%) and Private institutes (88%).
- Learning through official websites is being done mostly in Autonomous institutes(69%) and private institutes(65%)

2. E-Learning facilities:

- Online database Subscription is available in all colleges but it is high in Autonomous institutes(84%) and private institutes(79%)
- Subscription to e-journals is being done mostly by Autonomous(88%) and private institutes(76%)
- E-library software is mostly used by Autonomous (99%) and private institutes (89%)
- 24X7 Access of e-library software is mostly done by Autonomous (80%) and private institutes (75%)

3. Managing with ERP

- ERP Softwares are mostly used by all Autonomous (100%) and private institutes (100%)
- Online Attendance record is available with all autonomous and private institutes.
- Online Internal Assessment record is mostly done by Autonomous (74%) and private institutes (87%)
- Online fee payment facility is available in Autonomous (80%) and private institutes (72%)
- Documents submission and access is available mostly with the students of Autonomous (78%) and private institutes (92%)
- Satisfaction of Overall ERP process access is mostly with the students of Autonomous (82%) and private institutes (89%)

4. IT Infrastructure

- LAN & WiFi is available in almost all the colleges but autonomous and private institutes provide it more.
- All three categories of institutes have the facilities of computer in lab
- E-attendance is only being used by some autonomous and private institutes
- LCD projectors are used in all three categories of institutes

SUGGESTION

- Use of information technology in Professional education helps to manage the institute effectively, therefore latest methods must be used for delivery of lectures
- The ERP systems must be used in institutes keeping in mind the cost and the future requirements of colleges
- The Government colleges must use the funds from the government to install latest IT tools and technology in their institutes
- Institutes must use better e-learning facilities so that both the teacher and the students are benefitted from them

- Online attendance and record keeping helps to track the student's performance and improvise
- Projects and assignments should be planned in advance so that students have enough time to study and collect data.

CONCLUSION

The benefits of a using IT based methods are helpful for the students, institutes and also for the companies. Professional institutes are not just providing a course but they are also framing career of a student. The institutes must invest in a good IT based infrastructure for proper management and teacher-student support. IT based systems are used worldwide and offer plenty of benefits to all. The students must be educated about the latest tools and technologies and must concentrate on their career path and on the other hand the institutes must facilitate them by such methods.

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