Amenities for Re-Structuring Sri Lankan Teacher Education Employing ICT Tools

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Abstract: The pervasion information communication technology (ICT) has transformed all walks of life in the world. It has reshaped all the educational processes. In particular, teacher education has got reshaped in its all respects. The curriculum and the mode of delivery got modernized with the inclusion of ICT tools and became more effective and innovative in their implementation than previous decades. However, there are still considerable spaces available for improving the quality of teacher education in Sri Lanka. In this backdrop, ICT devices offer a plenty of opportunities and features for enhancing the quality of teacher education. These tools which can be used for the development of teacher education in Sri Lanka can be categorized as informative tools, constructive tools, collaborative tools and communication tools. These tools and resources are of immense help not only to the teachers, but also to their students so that a quality teacher education could be maintained in the country.

Keywords: Amenities, Re-Structuring, Teacher Education, ICT tools

Introduction:

The advancement in Information Communication Technology (ICT) and the process of globalization going on in the present world have profoundly transformed the modalities of learning teaching process (Jazeel and Saravanakumar, 2016). The ICT tools have increased plethora of opportunities for easy accessibility and interaction among the people, overcoming the challenges of time and space. In this line, ICT tools are a forceful agent in making a lot of changes in the field of medicine, banking, law, education and engineering. The impact of ICT tools has brought a significant opportunities and spaces for the development of education.

Sri Lankan government has taken several concrete steps to strengthen teacher education in the country to offer quality education to the nation (Jazeel and Saravanakumar, 2015). Of them providing all the teachers with International Computer Driving License programme and equipping the teacher education intuitions with online facilities for delivering of courses in e-learning modes

Nonetheless, as far as teacher education in Sri Lanka is concerned, there are still inadequacy in absorbing the enormous spaces and opportunities provided by the ICT tools for the total quality management of teacher education.

Infusion of ICT Tools for Developing Teacher Education in Sri Lanka:

Information Communication Technology provides a wide range of tools and facilities which can be used for the development of teacher education in Sri Lanka. These tools can be categorized as tools for retrieving information, tools for construction, tools for collaborative work and tools for communication (Lim and Tay (2003)

Tools for Retrieving Information in Teacher Education

This category of ICT tool provides enormous applications of information in different format. These tools are very useful for the teachers in Sri Lanka. The internet, websites, blogs, icloud drives, other storing hardware such as pen drive, hard disk, CD etc. The teachers who are pursing the course of study for their professional development can use these tools and benefit a lot. These tools are helping teachers to get to know about course of studies, other information related to teacher education programmes. In Sri Lanka all the teacher education institutions, colleges of education, universities, and National Institute of Education are infrastructure with the facilities of internet other than teachers colleges.

2. Tools for Construction in Teacher Education:

The teachers can exploit the constructive tools to make their presentation, do research, write assignments etc. Basically the constructive tools possess Microsoft Office Application such as Word Document, Access, Excess, Publishers, Power Point, Front Pages, Adobe Photoshop and other application software. These tools help them improve the quality of their education and strengthen them to face the challenge of the world in teacher education.   The constructive tools also help create new documents, teaching aids, lesson related work and even for assessment of learning of the students. These tools can also be used to correct their research articles and papers with language error correction facilities and draw sketches and drawings easily, and publish them in a number of platforms which are available in both print and online media. (Lever-Duffy 2007).

3. Tools for Communication in Teacher Education:

In the teacher education programmes, the communication tools play significant role among fellow teachers and their

students. The teacher students can also chat and participate discourses through e-mails, SMS, video conferencing, online application etc. They help them to communicate between the eacher students and their lecturers beyond the physical barrier of classroom. Both lecturers and teacher students uses these communication tools to exchange their experiences, and clear their doubts in leanings. (Williums, 2004)

4. Tools for Collaborative Works in Teacher Education:

The Internet is widely used for collaborative activities. By using the Internet, the teachers can participate in a number of collaborative works with the other teachers in doing teaching related work. They can present their experiences and knowledge for their professional development with others. When teachers are involved in collaborative work, the product will be higher and with more quality. In addition, there are a number of application software in use for the participation in collective projects in teacher education. The internet, the skype interaction, e-mails are some of the application which can be used for teachers in designing and implementing group works. Though most of the teachers are not involved in such activities in Sri Lanka, these teachers should be emphasized in using these tools for to participate in global forums to increase their understanding in teacher education.

Advantages of Infusing of ICT Tools for Teacher Education

The application of ICT tools for teacher education programmes and teachers in service in Sri Lanka can offer a plethora of advantages.

1. In Sri Lankan, teachers have access of fast internet facilities in their country. Now 4G internet is available. Hence, teachers in Sri Lanka can use the speed and automatic function of ICT tools to demonstrate, explore, and explain the aspects in teaching learning process.

2. Teacher can use current information stored in internet for their professional development and teacher education programmes (Saravanakumar, AR & Subbiah 2011)

3. Teachers can produce innovative models and aids which could be used for teaching their students

4. Teachers can use ICT tools for sharing their experiences and knowledge with other teachers.

5. Teacher institutions and policy makers can use ICT tools in developing new teacher programmes such as mobile learning, and Computer Assisted Instruction

Conclusion:

Integrating of advanced information communication technology into educational practices offered a paradigm shift in teacher education in the world. However, the teacher education process in Sri Lanka lacks using ICT tools. Teachers and teacher education programmes conducted in Sri Lanka should adopt ICT tools for various benefits for the development of total quality management.

Though there are a number of ICT tools available for the development of teacher education, the basic tools are categorized as information tools, collaborative tools, communication tools and constructive tools. These tools are of use for the teachers and teacher education institutions to improve the quality of teacher education

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