

A Study on the Awareness of ICT among the Secondary School Students in Amlarem Sub-Division, West Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya

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Abstract: *The 21st century that we are living demands a confluence of knowledge and knowledge based technologies through which we can acquire such knowledge. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) plays an important role in our daily lives because it helps us to deal with everyday dynamic things. Therefore ICT has an impact on almost every aspect of our lives. ICT becomes an integral part of student learning, teaching styles and classroom organization and it also helps to enhance the quality of education. To understand the role of ICT amongst the secondary school students, this study has been conducted through fieldwork research amongst the three selected schools in Amlarem Sub Division comprising of 50 students. The purpose of the study is to find out the awareness of ICT among Secondary School Students. The research finds the glaring lack of usage and awareness amongst the students vis-a-vis ICT. Such a situation creates an educational handicap that the student has to encounter and therefore, the study suggests prompt measures to rectify such shortcoming in the edu-technological infrastructures.*

Keywords: Quality of Education, ICT Awareness, Secondary School Students, West Jaintia Hills District

Introduction

We are living in the era of 21st century that often called as the era of technology. Technology plays a significant role in all aspects of our life. As we can see that technology is regarded as the basic growth of the modern society. S.K. Mangal and Uma Mangal Opine stated:

Today, we are living in a knowledge-based society and knowledge-based global world where knowledge is a great power, economy and strength of an individual, and the asset of a nation. It is also true that these are in tremendous explosion in its quality as well as growth. We are in need of new technologies to have access and proper use of this fast growing knowledge. Moreover, a mere acquisition of knowledge is not enough; we have a complete access and mastery over the knowledge getting process. It can only happen with the assistance of the science of information and communication technology (2014: Page 697)

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

ICT means Information and Communication Technology; it is defined as a set of technological tools that are used:

- To store the information
- To transmit the information
- To share the information and
- Also exchanging the information

Therefore, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) plays a significant role in the different fields of education, as it helps to bring:

- Universal access to education
- Equity in education
- Deliver the quality of teaching and learning process and

- Also makes education more efficient etc.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Awareness

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) awareness means the attaining of information, skills and education that the users or persons understand how to learn and use ICT tools and also they realize the overall characteristics, the strategic functionality and its competitive advantages.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are mentioned here under:

- To find out the awareness of ICT among Secondary School Students of Amlarem Sub-Division
- To find out the difference in ICT awareness with respect to gender
- To give suggestions based on the findings of the study.

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Review of Related Literature

“A study on the Awareness of ICT among Secondary School Students” led by Mailavelan and Baskaran (2018) and the researchers conducted this study in order to find out the level of awareness among the secondary school students with respect to gender, locale, medium of instruction and type of management. 270 secondary school students were randomly selected in and around Chennai of Tamilnadu. The result of this study reveals that most of the secondary school students have moderate level of awareness towards ICT. Researcher also found that there is no significant difference between the male and female secondary school students with respect to ICT awareness. And it was also found that both government and private school students have more ICT awareness compared to their counterparts.

In the same way, Vaiyapuri Raja, P and Sridharan, K (2019) also conducted “A study on Higher Secondary Students’ Awareness towards Utilization of computer”. In this research they studied in order to find out the awareness towards utilization of computer among higher secondary students in Thiruvannamalai District. Having taken 750 total samples of students, the researchers found out that there was no significant difference in the awareness towards utilization of computer among higher secondary students with respect to their sex, locality and medium of the study.

Materials and Methods

Method of the Study:

The researcher used descriptive method. Both primary and secondary data have been used in the present study.

Tools Used:

Constructed questionnaire was used in the present study.

Sample:

Simple Random Sampling technique is used for selecting the sample. The sample consists of 50 secondary school students in Government and Private Schools in Amlarem Sub-Division, West Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya.

Results

Analysis of the Data:

Table 1: showing the awareness of students about ICT

Total No. of Students	No. of Students – Aware of ICT	No. of Students- Not Aware of ICT	% of Students – Aware of ICT	% of Students- Not Aware of ICT
50	20	30	40%	60%

From the above table, it shows that out of 50 students, 40% are aware of ICT, whereas 60% of the students are not aware of ICT.

Table 2: showing the difference in awareness about ICT

Total No. of Students	No. of Students- Aware of ICT	No. of Female Students- Aware of ICT	No. of Male Students- Aware of ICT	% of Students- Aware of ICT	% of Female Students- Aware of ICT	% of Male Students- Aware of ICT
50	20	15	5	40%	30%	10%

From the above table, it is seen that out of 50 students, only 20 students (i.e., 40%) are aware of ICT. From this 40% of students who are aware of ICT, 30 % are female students whereas 10 % are male students.

Findings of the Study

After the analysis of the data collected, the following were the findings:

- It is found that out of the total number of students, only 40% of the students are aware of ICT, whereas 60% of the students are not aware of ICT.
- Amongst the 40% of students who are aware of ICT, 30% are females and 10% are males. This shows that there is a difference in ICT awareness with respect to gender, where female students are more aware of ICT than male students.

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Discussion

In this study, it reveals that in Secondary Schools of Amlarem Sub-Division, West Jaintia Hills District, majority of the students are not aware of ICT. It shows the lack of proper awareness of ICT in the students of this area because of lacking ICT facilities in the schools. Also because of the poor economic condition of the parents; there is lack of opportunities for the students to get the information from their own family. The study also reveals that there is a difference in the awareness of ICT between male and female students, where female students are more aware of ICT than male students. In this area of Amalarem Sub-Division, the dropout rate of boys is more than of girls which leads to more girls who continue in studies than boys. This can be the reason of more percentage of girls than boys in ICT awareness.

Implications of the Study

Based on the findings, the following are the implications of the study:

- Since only 40% of the students are aware of ICT, this implies that the schools do not have proper ICT facilities which can help students to be aware of ICT. Therefore, there is an urgent need of ICT facilities; and the Government authorities and the school managements should find ways and means to help schools to have these facilities.
- The study also implies that boys have less interest in education, as this can be seen from the very low percentage of boys who are aware of ICT. So, the parents and the school authorities should encourage boys in order to educate them as they can be the builders or leaders of the society as well as the Nation.

Suggestions

From the findings of the study, few suggestions are also needed to be given in order that the students can get a kind of awareness programs about ICT so that they can improve the knowledge for their future use of ICT.

- Workshops, conferences, seminars and training programs which are related to educational technology should be organized for school teachers and students as this will enhance ICT awareness.
- Government should put an effort in the provision of infrastructure institutional network and technical support in secondary school for teachers and students as this will help them in increasing their ICT awareness.
- Parents should motivate and encourage their children to enrolling them into ICT programs at an early stage because this will help them in acquiring the knowledge about ICT and also helps them in increasing awareness of ICT.
- The teachers and students will benefit from the use of ICT. Therefore, the teachers should encourage and motivate their students to use ICT for teaching and learning process.

Conclusion

In today's world, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) plays a very important role in various aspects of life including education process. We can say that education in today's world is lame without the help of ICT. Therefore, proper awareness of using ICT in education is very important. The successful ability to use ICT depends on the collaborative efforts of the Government, Private organizations and different societies. As it is found in the study, in Amlarem Sub-Division, among 50 (fifty) secondary school students taken, majority of the students are not aware of the information and communication technology. The ICT facilities are not available in the secondary schools in Amlarem Sub-Division West Jaintia Hills District. This also indicates the need of taking of responsibility by all the concerned regarding creating the awareness of ICT. If ICT facilities are available and required awareness is there, teachers and students will be benefitted from the use of ICT, because ICT improves engagement and knowledge. When ICT is integrated into lessons, students become more engaged in their studies.

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