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Research Article

AWARENESS OF ICT LITERACY AMONG GRADUATE STUDENTS IN TAMIL SUBJECT

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ABSTRACT

Technology is becoming a powerful tool for communication, problem solving, and as a means of research for learning in education. The investigator studied the awareness of ICT literacy among graduate students using survey method. The data was collected from two hundred and fifty samples randomly selected from the graduate students. The study revealed that the awareness level of graduate students in ICT literacy is low. Hence they can be given special training on ICT literacy to develop their knowledge level.

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INTRODUCTION

Education is a dynamic progressive, which reconstructs a new and better social pattern according to the changing needs of time, place and society. Education in India is seen as one of the way to upward the social mobility. Good education is seen as a stepping stone to a high flying career. Education system in India currently represents a great paradox.

Technology is becoming a powerful tool for communication, problem solving, and as a means of research for learning in education. The emerging technologies are constantly changing the world around us. These technologies have affected the way of learning and the way processes are carried out. The present education system is facing substantial pressure to prepare the students to learn, live and work in the digital age. ICT serves as a diverse set of technological tools and used to communicate, and create, disseminate, store and manage information. A computer network consists of a set of communication channels interconnecting a set of computing devices or nodes that can communicate with each other. H. J. Leavit defines technology as problem solving invention. The development of technology is essentially related to attempts to be rationale and to effect greater efficiency. It can be defined as the use of hardware and software for efficient management of information that is storage, retrieval, processing and communication. (J.M Arul seker, 2007)

REVIEW OF RELATED STUDIES

Jayaraman (2009) conducted a study on monitoring the application of ICT in the Sarva Shiksha Abbiyan Programmes of Pudukkottai District. The finding of the study was, there was a significant difference between the mean scores of uses of ICT among Block Resource Centre (BRC) teachers on the basis of academic qualification as well as in technical qualification. Kanmani (2009) conducted a study on influence of self-esteem and awareness of ICT on academic achievement of M.Ed., students. The study finding revealed that there was no significant correlation between awareness of ICT and academic achievement of M.Ed. students with respect to gender and type of institution. Rajalakshmi and Anandan (2009-2010) conducted a study on Opinion of the Teacher Trainees towards ICT. The findings of the study revealed that there was a significant positive opinion was observed among the teacher's trainees towards ICT with various dimensions such as computer power point presentation and internet. Florence Nameere Kivunike *et.al* (2011) conducted a study on perceptions of the role of ICT on Quality of Life in Rural Communities in Uganda. The study revealed that ICT uptake and use toward improved is still limited. Further, it concluded that state and policymakers should adopt a pluralistic approach to ICT provision: one that does not only focus on availability and affordability, but also considers expanding people's awareness and agency for development benefit.

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Need and Significance of the Study

As we live in the world of competition we need to acquire adequate knowledge about computer and its uses in the field of education. Ours is an information age, where information and communication technology has revolutionized education. Today one cannot be ignorant about the impact of information and communication technology. Information and communication technology helps the students to appreciate and adopt emerging communication technology and innovative practices it provides guidance for the developmental of a high quality strategies technology plan. It enables the students to update the new knowledge and the skill used to the new digital tools and resources. Improving the quality of education through diversification of contents and methods and promoting experimentation, innovation and sharing of information are UNESCO'S strategic objectives in education. So students must have the skill of using ICT.

Objectives of the Study

1. To find the level of awareness of ICT literacy of graduate students tamil subject.
2. To find out whether there is any significant association in awareness of ICT literacy of graduate students with respect to educational qualification of their parents.
3. To find out whether there is any significant difference in awareness of literacy among ICT graduate students in tamil with respect to gender and location of the institution.

Hypotheses are formulated based on the above objectives

Sample

The investigator has randomly selected two hundred and fifty graduate students from arts and science colleges in Tuticorin district. The researcher has adopted "Awareness of ICT Literacy" to collect data from the sample.

Statistical Techniques Used: Mean, Standard deviation, 't'-test, ANOVA and Chi-square test are used for analysing the data.

Hypothesis Wise Analysis

Hypothesis:1

There is no significant difference in awareness of ICT Literacy between male & female graduate students in tamil.

Table 1 Difference in awareness of ICT Literacy between Male & Female Graduate students in tamil

	Gender	N	Mean	S.D	t-Value	df	Remark
ICT Awareness	Male	25	2.52	0.653	4.02	249	S
	Female	225	1.96	0.674			

It is inferred from the above table that the calculated "t" value (4.02) is greater than the table value of "t" (1.96) at 5% level of significance, for df (249). Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus there is significant difference in the awareness of ICT literacy between male and female Graduate students in tamil.

Hypothesis:2

There is no significant difference in awareness of ICT Literacy between Rural & Urban area graduate students in tamil.

Table 2 Difference in awareness of ICT Literacy between Rural & Urban Graduate students in tamil

	Locality	N	Mean	S.D	t-Value	Remark
ICT Awareness	Rural	225	1.96	.674	4.02	S
	Urban	25	2.52	.653		

It is inferred from the above table that the calculated "t" value (4.02) is greater than the table value of "t" (1.96) at 5% level of significance. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus there is significant difference in the awareness of ICT literacy among graduate students in tamil based on locality of institution.

Hypothesis:3

There is no significant difference in awareness of ICT Literacy among graduate students in tamil with respect to the mother's education.

Table 3 Significant association in awareness of ICT literacy among graduate students in tamil with respect to the mother's education

Education of father	Low	Average	High	Df	Calculated χ^2 -Value	Table χ^2 -Value	Remark at 5% level
Illiterate	22	28.7	71	66.0	33	31.2	
School education	34	26.0	56	59.7	24	28.3	3
College education	1	2.3	4	5.2	5	2.5	

It is inferred from the above table that the calculated chi-square value (8.96) is greater than the table value of chi-square (7.815) at 5% level of significance. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus there is significant association in the awareness of ICT literacy among graduate students in tamil with respect to mother's education.

Findings

1. The level of awareness of ICT literacy among graduate students studying tamil as their major subject is low.
2. Male and female graduate students studying tamil as their major differ in their awareness of ICT literacy.
3. Graduate students studying tamil as their major subject residing in rural and urban institutions did not differ significantly in awareness of ICT literacy.
4. The awareness of ICT literacy of graduate students studying tamil as their major subject associated significantly with their mothers' educational qualification.

Educational Implications

The graduate students studying tamil as their major subject may be given a special training on tamil computing which is most required for them. Further, they may be trained on the usage of computers for their learning and research works. Since the graduates' awareness level is low, "Tamil Computing", may be included as a course in their syllabus at lower level.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of the present investigation was to study the awareness of ICT among under graduate students. This chapter summarize the findings of the study, need for present investigation, and design of the study and give educational implications and recommendations for future study. This study will be more useful when the suggestions give by the investigator are applied for further study and it will be of a great help for those who study further in the field.

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