ABSTRACT


This study analyzes the Role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in pursuit of academic excellence with respect to the Indian Universities Accredited by NAAC.

The objective of the study is to compare the use of information and communication technology in the admission of students for various courses admitted; employment of staff; teaching and learning process at different levels; examinations at different levels; management of library; administration and finance in state universities and other universities.

Data collection method is used with those institutions accredited by NAAC. Before framing the questionnaire the investigator had interaction with some of the sitting Vice Chancellors and also ex -Vice Chancellors for their opinions and views on the ICT and its implementation in Universities. After designing the questionnaire comments / opinions were obtained regarding the structure and the contents of the questionnaire from Vice Chancellors / Professor (s) of fifteen Universities and the questionnaire was modified accordingly.

The questionnaire included queries related to use of ICT in students’ admissions; staff recruitment; teaching and learning; examinations; library and information services; and administration and finance. The top page of the questionnaire-contained questions related to general information about the Universities. A questionnaire on perception of faculty, administrative staff was also designed and data was collected. The scale was based on Likert Method. The questionnaire was sent to 140 NAAC accredited Universities till 31st March 2007. Eighty-five (85) Universities, 520 faculty, and 195 administrative staff were formed the respondents involving both men and women. The hypotheses is stated thus:
Abstract

- There is no significant difference between mean scores of responses towards the use of Information and Communication Technology in Higher Education by teachers belonging to State Universities and Other Universities.

- There is no significant difference between mean scores of responses towards the use of Information and Communication Technology in Higher Education by administrators belonging to State Universities and Other Universities.

Analysis and findings of the data indicated that:

In general, it was found through the study that all the universities have their URL / WWW / Websites.

a) Greater extent of Other Universities (Central and Deemed Universities) were found to have an edge over State Universities in areas, such as putting admission notice, eligibility criteria for admission, down loading facility of admission form, publishing wait listed candidates, permanent teaching as well as non-teaching posts, putting the examination schedule on website, communicating the date of interview to the candidates through e-mail, providing broadband connectivity to all the departments / schools on the campus or satellite campus, maintaining database of paper setters, total computerization of their library and providing facility to their users to make a request to reserve books online, giving training to non-teaching staff, database of admitted students, computerization of evaluation work, database of alumni, computerizing the finance section.

b) Both State and Other Universities (Central and Deemed Universities) have networked departments, using Wi-Fi facilities, online entrance examination, posting the date of interview on their website, using e-mail facility for communication, question banks, facility for randomly generating separate question papers for each candidate, issuing e-hall ticket, use of Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology in the examinations, internet connection in their libraries for users, bar coding system, INFLIBNET facility, UGC Infonet, computerization of fee collection, and the results of students and EDUSAT facility.

c) Majority of State Universities are found to have an edge over Other Universities in areas, such as, having curriculum division and co-curricular division, giving annual maintenance contract for
maintaining hardware and software, computerization of fee collection, salary and budgeting.

d) Six State Universities are having RFID system in their library.
e) A few State and Other Universities have smart card system, linkages with libraries of affiliated colleges, libraries of Other Universities, electronic surveillance system in their library.
f) A few State and Other Universities have created facility for payment of fee through credit cards.
d) Only one State University is providing facility to deposit tuition / course fee online and another State University has the facility for filling and submission of the examination form Online.
e) Only one State University is using the ICT to send the Question Papers Online to its Affiliated Colleges for various examinations. There are three level passwords which an affiliated College need to access the university website for downloading the Question Papers.
e) None of the State and Other Universities has made provision to apply for the revaluation Online or sending the documents by e-mail.
f) Teachers and Administrators working in both the State and Other Universities were found to have positive perception about the use of ICT in Higher Education.

Analysis of the data reveals that there is a strong impact of the extent of technology in the higher educational institutions. Universities are gearing up with the new technology and trying to give the best to the student’s community. Many respondents opined that the ICT would enable them to keep pace in the global scenario. Institutions data management, responsiveness to prospective and present students, Use of ICT in admission, teaching and learning are some of the issues where technology integration is focused. The positive attitude of the use of ICT by Teachers and Administrators helps to achieve positive outcome in the institutional excellence.

These findings, taken as a whole, led to the acceptance of null hypothesis that Teachers and Administrators working in both the State and Other Universities are found to have positive perception about the use of ICT in Higher Education.