ABSTRACT

The society is undergoing a fundamental transformation from an industrial to an information based society. This is enabled by the ‘Information and Communication Technology’ (ICT), which is making revolutionary changes in the form of productivity gains and life style improvements. It can enhance the competitive muscle of nations and can motivate public participation and greater democracy in decision making. It has a great potential in bringing the desired social change by creating new opportunities in learning and acquiring new skills and competences that are necessary for better participation.

The study considers information and communication technologies in general and focuses on the state of Kerala in the socio-economic development context. It is a theoretically oriented study and lays a strong base by identifying the various theories associated with development and particularly those theories which explain the relevance of technology and education in the development process. The study makes a detailed review of the current status and application of ICT in different areas. It concentrates on the role of ICT in education and governance. A review of the current status of the e-governance initiatives in the state of the Kerala has been undertaken by using secondary data. With regard to education, the study analyzes the diffusion of information and communication technology in education and its impact in the teaching – learning process in schools by examining the role of IT @ School project, a major ICT initiative of Government of Kerala. It examines the effectiveness of ICT enabled teaching and learning process from the stakeholders - teachers and students. The study evaluates the interacting factors of ICT in education and the barriers, which inhibits its effective application.

Key Words

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D), General Purpose Technology(GPT), Digital Divide, Economic Development, Gross National Product (GNP), Endogenous Growth Theory, Blended learning, e-learning, IT @ School, e-governance,