5.0 Introduction

The previous chapter has been devoted to the analysis and interpretations of data. The analysis has yielded some significant findings pertaining to the postgraduate university students’ availability, access and utilisation of educational technology facilities. The present chapter aims at providing the major findings of the study, educational implications, and suggestions for further research.

5.1 Major Finding

The major findings of the study are as follows:

5.1.1 Findings Related to Development of Educational Technology for Higher Education in India and Iran

- With regards to the status of development of educational technology for higher learning, India is much ahead than Iran. The telephone, television, computer and Internet penetration in India is much more than that of Iran. India has got a dedicated exclusive satellite-EDUSAT for educational
communications. The Consortium for Educational Communications (CEC) of UGC takes-up the responsibility of coordinating the activities of educational technology for the higher education. Besides this, The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and other 13 state Open Universities utilize the potentials of educational technology for multi-channel course delivery in higher education through distance mode. Online courses in all fields of education are very popular in India.

- In Iran, technological developments used for higher learning is very limited. But the Centre for Educational Technology (CET), part of the Organization for Research & Educational Planning, produces and distributes supplementary audio and visual materials for schools. The CET is also responsible for developing the Roshd national intranet for schools. There is only one Open University namely ‘Azed’ and one Distance University ‘Payam Noor’, which uses only very little technology for course delivery. However, for religious learning, technological supports are provided by channels like the National Network of the Voice and Video of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Quran Radio and Television and the Tehran Radio Network.
5.1.2 Benchmark for Use of Educational Technology by Postgraduate Students for Higher Learning

- The postgraduate students demonstrate a good understanding of technology concepts, systems and operations. They apply the knowledge for creative and innovative products, effective communication, collaboration, and research. These includes:
  - Students understand and use the technology systems
  - Select and use applications effectively and productively
  - Troubleshoot systems and applications
  - Advocate and practice safe, legal and responsible use of information and technology
  - Exhibit leadership for digital citizenship
  - Exhibit a positive attitude toward using technology that supports collaboration, learning and productivity
  - Transfer current knowledge to learning of new technologies
  - Apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products or processes
  - Communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats
- Locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize and ethically use information from variety of sources

- Evaluate and select information sources and digital tools based on the appropriateness to specific tasks

5.1.3. Findings Related to the Availability and Access to Educational Technology Facilities in India and Iran

- All the selected ten departments of the Ferdowsi University in Mashhad in Iran were having at-least more than half of the required educational technology materials.

- The educational technology materials such as computers, radio sets, computer room, television sets, printers, Internet connections, overhead projectors, wide area networks, video conferencing facilities, digital data bank and closed circuit TVs were available in all ten departments of Ferdowsi University.

- In India, only two departments of University of Mysore, Mysore namely Computer and Management were equipped with half of the required educational technology materials.

- The most of the departments in the University of Mysore were not having the minimum required educational technology materials.
• More than 50% of the postgraduate students in both the universities were not having access to various educational technology materials.

• The percentage of students having access to educational technology materials ranges from 30 to 48 in the case of the departments in Ferdowsi University (Iran) and in the case of University of Mysore, it ranges from 08 to 37.

5.1.4. Findings Pertaining to Educational Technology Skills of Postgraduate Students in India and Iran

• Only about 60% of the postgraduate students in both the universities were having ‘good’ or ‘excellent’ educational technology skills.

• More than one third of the students need to improve their educational technology skills in order to exploit the resources available through ET/ICT.

• In Iran, the postgraduate students’ educational technology skills ranges from 18.0 to 24.7, where as in India, it ranges from 16.1 to 26.3. These mean scores shows that most of the postgraduate students reported that their educational technology skills are good or average.
5.1.5. Findings Related to the Utilization, Attitude and their Relationship with Academic Performance

- The percentage of students utilizing various educational technology (ET) materials ranges from 34 to 54 in the case of the departments in Ferdowsi University (Iran) and in the case of University of Mysore, it ranges from 05 to 50.

- It is observed that half of the students of University of Mysore were not at all utilizing the educational technology materials available in their respective departments/library.

- The percentage of students utilizing the educational technology materials was more in both the Universities when compared to the percentage of students having access to educational technology materials. This reveals that, even though the various educational technology facilities are not available in their departments, out of those students, who utilize the facilities, make use the facilities available in other departments/library.

- Majority of the students who use the educational technology materials only to the extent of ‘Low’ or ‘Average’.
Almost all the postgraduate students had a high positive attitude towards the use of educational technology for higher learning.

Postgraduate students of Ferdowsi University (Iran) had a mean attitude score of 219.58 and the students of University of Mysore (India) had a mean attitude score of 223.05.

Department-wise mean attitude scores ranges from 241.4 to 225.1 for the departments in Ferdowsi University and it was from 216.9 to 233.0 for the departments in University of Mysore.

There was no significant difference between the mean scores of attitude towards use of educational technology for higher learning between the postgraduate students of Ferdowsi University (Iran) and University of Mysore (India).

There exists a low positive relationship between the postgraduate students attitude towards use of educational technology and the extent of utilization of educational technology in Iran.

There exists a negligible relationship between the postgraduate students attitude towards use of educational
technology and the extent of utilization of educational technology in India.

- There exists a negligible relationship between the postgraduate students’ extent of utilization of educational technology facilities and academic performance of postgraduate students of Ferdowsi University in Iran.

- There exists a negligible relationship between the postgraduate students’ extent of utilization of educational technology facilities and academic performance of postgraduate students of University of Mysore (India).

5.2 Educational Implications

No research effort can be said to be worthwhile if it does not emanate some of the important educational implications. Through the present investigation, an attempt has been made to study the educational technological facilities in the postgraduate departments of the Universities. The study has come out with various findings. The findings of the study may be utilised in many ways. The findings of the study have certain significant educational implications. Some of them are presented below:

- The study reveals that though the country like India has attained in general a good development in the field of
educational technology (ET), but it has not been reflected in the classrooms of higher learning. Institutions of Higher learning should provide all those facilities to students so as to exploit the potentials of educational technology/information and communication technology for better learning.

- The country Iran may have to develop a national agency like one such in India—Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC) of University Grants Commission (UGC) to provide and coordinate the educational technology inputs and activities in the higher education level.

- Just like in available in India, in near future, the country Iran may launch a dedicated satellite for Educational Communication Services.

- The study reveals that many of the postgraduate departments in the Universities do not have the modern educational technology aids such as computers with broadband, teleconferencing and computer conferencing, LCD projectors and Interactive White Boards (IWBs). Modern educational technology facilities may be provided in all postgraduate departments so as to learn independently and also to promote collaborative learning to develop wider the knowledge base in their respective disciplines.
• The present study has enlisted certain expected standards in educational technology for the students of higher learning. Thus, the educational technology/information and communication technology skills of postgraduate students may be kept as a criterion while selecting the students to the institutions of higher learning.

• Avenues should be provided to postgraduate students to improve their educational technology/information and communication technology skills as a part of the regular curriculum or as an additional input so as to exploit the digital content resources available in the Internet.

• Though the departments of the Ferdowsi University in Mashhad, Iran have got better educational technology facilities in terms of the materials available compared to the University of Mysore, the utilisation of the existing resources are not at all satisfactory. Proper orientation to the postgraduate students at the beginning of the Courses by their respective teachers/faculty may be of great help in utilizing the existing facilities of educational technology in the department/library.

• Learning opportunities for the postgraduate students should be made more open and wider so as to construct a good
knowledge base by utilising the potentials of educational technology.

- As it has been observed, the faculty of the departments uses very little technology assistance in transacting the classes. The faculty of the postgraduate departments should make use of the modern technological devices to transact the content. This will help to develop a positive attitude towards educational technology among the postgraduate students both in Iran and India.

5.3 Suggestions for Further Research

No research is the last word in a particular field of study. Every research has its own limitations and also no research can give final verdict about the phenomenon that is being investigating and hence scope for further work is always there. The present piece of research is also no exception to it. However, it is hoped that present piece of research would stimulate some researchers to take-up researches on the issues pertaining to various dimensions of educational technology, information and communication technology and instructional technology. Thus, the following suggestions for further researches are offered:

- This study may be replicated on larger samples by taking more departments from various universities in other regions of the
India and Iran or other country by so as to examine the phenomenon in further details.

- It would be worthwhile to conduct more macro and micro level studies on the availability and accessibility of educational technology facilities for postgraduate students in different counties.
- Studies may be conducted to identify various problems faced by postgraduate students in utilizing the existing educational technology facilities during their course of study.
- Impact of the use various educational technology material/aids on postgraduate students’ academic performance may be studied through experimental research.
- Studies may be conducted to highlight relationship between the extent of the use of educational technology and academic performance besides exploring reasons for better teaching/learning.
- Comparative studies may be taken up to know the influence of attitudes towards use of technology and performance of postgraduate students with different settings.
- Experimental studies may be conducted to ascertain the contribution of different media employed in educational technology on the academic performance of postgraduate students.
• Studies may be carried out to investigate cost effectiveness of various educational technology aids.
• Studies may also be planned and executed to explore the influence of motivational factors on use of educational technology by postgraduate students.
• Studies may be conducted to investigate the attitude of teachers in using educational technology for content transaction.
• Comparative studies may be conducted on students and teachers for assessing educational technology skills at the higher education.
• An investigation into the Educational Technology/ICT standards of postgraduate students from different institutions such as professional medical, engineering, law, etc., may be explored.
• Similar studies may also be conducted by taking sample from undergraduate departments.

The above-mentioned suggestions do not represent an exhaustive list of future researches in the area of educational technology. It is, however, a humble attempt to provide stimuli to motivated researchers who should identify research problem of their interest and may derive some basis from the present piece of research and projections made in the preceding paragraphs.
5.4 Conclusion

The present study highlights the status of educational technology facilities available for the postgraduate students in both the Universities. The findings of the study highlight the status of the educational technology facilities in the selected departments of both Universities. The results are not encouraging. It provides a dismal picture of the inadequate resources in the classrooms of higher learning in the 21st Century.

However, the students showed a positive attitude towards the use of educational technology for teaching and learning in the higher education. Though postgraduate students exhibit a positive attitude towards the use of educational technology for higher learning, in practice, they lack good technology skills and also majority of them do not utilize the existing facilities.

The study could not establish a strong relationship between postgraduate students’ extent of utilization of educational technology facilities and their academic performance. However, it is true that the educational technology helps for a better understanding and result in better academic performance.
5.5 Delimitations of the Study

The study under reference has yielded several important and interesting findings. An effort was made to make the study as precise and scientific as possible. However, no research study can claim to be prescriptive and may not give final verdict on the phenomenon investigated upon. The findings of the present piece of research do suffer from unavoidable limitations arising out of the constraints of human and material resources and the time at the disposal of the researcher. The major delimitations of the study are as follows:

- The sample of postgraduate students was drawn from only from the ten-selected department of University of Mysore in India and Ferdowsi University in Iran.

- Generalisation of the findings of present study is limited only to the selected Universities in both the countries.