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International Seminar on EMERGING SKILL DEVELOPMENT TRENDS IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCES, SOCIAL SCIENCES & EDUCATION

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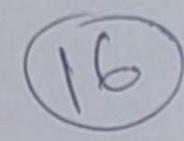
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Chapter 37

Digital divide in Teaching-Learning process of Higher Education: An Analytical Study between Various Groups of Students

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Abstract: Recently digital divide has attracted the researchers to analyze the condition in various groups. Digital divide is not only existing due to geographical distance or region but may exist due to other factors. In the knowledge economy society, Information Communication Technology (ICT) is playing crucial role for overall development. Higher education system is an example of this, in which Teaching-Learning is based on ICT. The impact of utilization of ICT in Teaching-Learning may be reflected in terms of academic performance of students. On the other hand Digital divide may exist due to various factors among the students involved in learning. This paper analyzes the situation of digital divide in ICT based learning process based on three groups namely: Male Vs Female students, University Vs College students and PG Vs UG students.

Keywords: Digital Divide, Information communication Technology (ICT).

Introduction

Digital divide is defined as the gap between those group who have access to digital technology or Information communication Technology (ICT) and those who do not to fulfill their objective. The digital divide (Panda I. and et al.) may also be defined as the gap between individuals, business and geographical areas at different socio-economic levels with regards both to their opportunities to access ICTs and to their use of the internet for a wide variety of activities. The objective considered in this piece of research work to analyze digital divide is utilization of ICT as a tool in learning process to improve academic performance of students. Countries around the words are investing in Information Communication Technology (ICT) to improve quality education, but due to many reasons digital divide are occurring in various groups of students and teachers engaged in Teaching-Learning in higher education system. Researchers have worked lot about utilization of ICT in Teaching-Learning and its impact on academic performance of students. Purpose of present research work is to analyze condition of digital divide in higher education system specially in context of students perception on utilization of ICT in learning process to improve their academic performance. Various groups of students where digital divide may occur are identified. From the analysis (Singh S. Et.al, 2010) it is clear that there are millions of peoples in the world or country like India who do not have internet access, telephones, mobile etc. due to various reasons. Their inability to access ICTs deprives them to reap the benefits of ICTs. This has let to serious issue "Digital Divide". Government of India (www.mhrd.gov.in) and is also taking lots of initiative to bridge the digital gap among the various stakeholders engaged in higher education system, these are national Knowledge Network (NKN), Spoken tutorial program, NEPTEL etc.

Digital Divide in Higher education: In Teaching-Learning in higher education system, ICT is being utilized both by students as well as by teachers. The various groups of students where digital divide may occur may be as follows: