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A STUDY ON ICT AWARENESS AMONG HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS IN CUDDALORE DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT:

The present study is carried out by differential analysis to know the difference between ICT Awareness among High School Teachers. Three hundred High School Teachers had been randomly selected for the present study. Normative survey method was used to collect the data. The study was done in Cuddalore District in Tamilnadu. In the study it is found that the level of ICT Awareness among high school teachers in Cuddalore District is Moderate. Also there is significant difference between high school teachers in their ICT Awareness with respect to their gender wise.



KEYWORDS: *ICT Awareness, High School Teachers, Cuddalore District.*

INTRODUCTION:-

Nowadays teaching is becoming one of the most challenging professions in India where knowledge is expanding rapidly and much of it is available to students as well as teachers at anytime and anywhere. As the quality of teaching relies on the teachers' ICT awareness. Teachers have to accept the demands of modern world and modify their old concepts and methods according to the needs of learners and to improve the quality of education at all levels. So, every teacher must understand that ICT awareness influences all aspects of their teaching learning process and they are also integral part of shaping their profession. Through ICT awareness the

teachers can bring enthusiasm and varied teaching and assessment approaches to the classroom, addressing individual students' needs and ensuring sound learning opportunities for every student which is essential for the younger generation for whom they are going to handle the class.

Moreover, at present there is a shortage of qualified and competent teachers in all most all subjects at all levels. Due to rapid population explosion classroom size increased and the quality of teaching in the classroom is on the decline. Further most of the teachers use lecture method to cope up with this prevailing condition which does not have potentiality of achieving present

multidimensional objectives. This will reduce interest among students and may lead to negative attitude towards students' learning which can be prevented by proportionate ICT awareness even in the increased classroom size to meet the present demands of the society.

Hence, realizing the present status of both teacher and students, our government has introduced lot of measures to improve their ICT awareness to cope with the new intellectual challenges being thrown up by the changed global and local context by conducting lot of seminars, workshops to update their knowledge in these aspects which is recommended at present, or else the teachers will become outdated in the coming

future and it will deteriorate the quality of education in schools also.

Information and communication technology (ICT) have been proven to be a very important aspect of the teaching learning process. Numerous studies show that the quality of teaching learning process can be significantly enhanced when the teachers possess sufficient ICT awareness. It helps to enhance critical thinking, information handling skills, the level of conceptualization, and problem-solving capacity. Being aware of the significant role of ICT in teaching learning process educational authorities should be wise enough in implementing the strategies to empower ICT in supporting the teaching and learning process in the classroom. They are not just the bloom of the educational activities, but also, they will be the secondary option to improve the effective and meaningful educational process.

NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

At present quality teachers must be provided with quality education about ICT usage and its effectiveness. Because teachers those who are competent in these areas alone are able to mold competent students to face the emerging challenges of present situation and other environmental and social issues. Quality of a nation depends upon the quality of its citizens. The quality of the citizens rests upon the quality of their education. The quality of their education depends upon the competency of the teachers. To satisfy this awareness towards ICT are needed as a key factor to achieve this goal.

Teaching at School as well as Higher Education, mostly, concentrates on giving information which is not the sole objective of teachers. Along with giving information, the other objectives which they have to enrich among students are developing understanding and application of the concepts, expression power, reasoning and thinking power, judgment and decision making ability, improving comprehension, speed and vocabulary, self-concept and value clarification, proper study habits, tolerance and ambiguity, risk taking capacity, scientific temper, etc. Hence all these objectives can be rendered to the students only by the teachers those who are competent in ICT awareness. So the present study is conducted to identify to what extent ICT awareness influence achievement among high school teachers.

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

This study is limited to the High School Teachers in selected schools in and around Cuddalore district. To measure the opinion of High School Teachers regarding their ICT awareness self-rating scale.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To find out the level of ICT Awareness among high school teachers in Cuddalore District.
2. To find out there is any difference in the level of ICT Awareness among high school teachers with respect to the Gender.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY:

1. To level of ICT Awareness among high school teachers in Cuddalore District is moderate.
2. There is no significant difference among high school teachers in ICT Awareness with respect to gender.

METHOD

Normative survey method was used in the present study.

TOOLS USED

ICT awareness questionnaire developed and validated by Mrs. T.M.Gnanasoundari (2013) was used.

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

The sample consists of 300 High School Teachers in Cuddalore district.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED

Arithmetic Mean
Standard Deviation
t-test

HYPOTHESIS -1:

To level of ICT Awareness among high school teachers in Cuddalore District is moderate

Table -1
Percentage distribution of level of ICT Awareness

Variable	Level	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
ICT Awareness	Low	86	28.7	28.7
	Moderate	142	47.3	76
	High	72	24	100

From the above table, it is observed the level of ICT Awareness among high school teachers in Cuddalore District is Moderate.

HYPOTHESIS 2: There is no significant difference among high school teachers in ICT Awareness with respect to gender

Table -2
t-test for significant difference among high school teachers in ICT Awareness with respect to gender

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value	Level of Significance
ICT Awareness	Female	166	15.05	4.08	4.74	0.01
	Male	134	12.87	3.74		

Since the calculated 't' value is greater than the table value at 0.01 level of significance, the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus, there is a significant difference among Female and Male high school teachers with respect to ICT Awareness.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. The level of ICT Awareness among high school teachers in Cuddalore District is Moderate.
2. There is significant difference between high school teachers in their ICT Awareness with respect to their gender wise.

IMPLICATIONS FOR ICT AWARENESS

1. Seminars and workshops can also be organized for enhancing ICT skills among high school teachers.
2. Teacher educational institutes need to consider increasing the infrastructural facilities so that the modern teaching aids i.e. digital library and internet can be used frequently for the benefit of the teachers and students.

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