

Analysis of Quality Improvement through ICT Based Online Admission Process in Open and Distance Mode of Education

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ABSTRACT

The Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system has shown a tremendous growth during the past few decades due to its unique feature of being a user-friendly system. In this system, the students are free to learn at their own pace and convenience while being away from the institution. This uniqueness and the ease of gaining knowledge have a pivotal role to play in facilitating today's emerging knowledge society. Information and communication technology (ICT) has significantly affected the process of admission in higher educational institutions. ICT also improves the interaction between the students and the institution as well as academician too. ICT based tools and technology not only useful for the regular mode of education it also plays important role in open and distance learning mode and improves the facilities of the institution for the learners. It has provided an edge to ways and means of traditional form of admission process and has given new dimensions to online admission. The article aims to measure the impact of ICT on online admission process in higher educational institutions in the state of Chhattisgarh. The framework of the study aims to find out the inter-effect of ICT among the academic institutions for the online admission process in the state of Chhattisgarh. The outcome suggests ICT adoption in the process of admission among academic institutions in the state of Chhattisgarh for the open and distance education.

Keywords: ICT, Online admission, satisfaction, higher educational institutions.

I INTRODUCTION

Open and Distance Learning (ODL) programmes are very important and significant part of modern days of higher education and it provides a medium to acquire knowledge with the degree for society. It is more flexible and cost effective education system which provides the education for every age group of students, working professionals and traditional Indian women's who works as housewives as well as also works in many different sectors. New age technologies can help to improve the quality, reliability of education and it also distribute education from the best sources to all the people who are in need of education and it can also be used to provide many sources so the education for our learners can reach in remote areas. The evolution of information and communication technology (ICT) based education has initiated a new revolution in open and distance learning mode of education environment that changed the traditional methods and procedures of teaching and learning. ICT is group of technologies by which various support services shall be provided at different phases of student learning life cycle in distance learning. The various phases of open and distance learning programmes are; the admission phase (pre admission counselling, programme details, online admission, fee structure, online fee payment, online solution of payment issues, admission procedure and registration & re-registration), the learning phase (learning schedule, programme delivery(lectures through video conferencing, webinars, audio & video programmes, multimedia presentations and case studies), the evaluation phase (examination schedule, internal & external assessment, examinations, check your progress report, valuation, revaluation and result declaration) and the certification phase (

marks/grades updates, E-certification, certificate printing & issuing and convocation schedule).

ICT not just playing its role in academic fields it also involve in administration area and its role start from the beginning when a learner wants to take admission in any programmes offered by the university. Taking admission is the very first process for the learner to join the open and distance learning institution for any particular programme and learners from different areas are not able to reach the institution/university or take the part in admission process because lack of facilities, resources and their busy schedule for this issues ICT plays a part through online pre counselling and admission process for learner. Process of online admission is very convenient and easy so the learners from any areas can easily enrolled their selves for any particular programme offered by the university. Here in this paper, the role of ICT in online admission and its impact has been analyzed and defined which describe the importance of ICT and online admission. This paper concludes the effects of ICT based online admission pattern in every dimensions of it in the institution which are formed in Chhattisgarh state. The outcome of this includes nature of work; ICT based online admission pattern and the impact of online admission in various fields. The outcomes also describe the advantages of online admission process, limitations and its future in open and distance learning mode of education:

II PROCESS of ONLINE ADMISSION and ICT:

In the modern age of technology in which all kind of institutions are getting hi-tech, computerized and available online with their all kind of services and so the educational institution too. The various facilities and services like fee payment, e-content, e-library has been provided by the educational institution through

online mode and now online admission is also one of the facilities by the institution for the student. The online admission process replaces the traditional admission process i.e. offline mode very soon and many institution already started the process of online admission in our country. The online admission process is the process which automates the admission procedure for the regular mode or distance learning mode of education of schools, colleges and universities. The whole procedure based on an internet based application which can be accessed from anywhere, anytime basis and provides the facility of online registration for the students without any use of paper material. In open and distance learning the learners are not able to come to the university campus directly because of various reasons like institution of open and distance learning is not in the reach of the learner so he/she can participate in offline admission process and many more of their personal reasons but they still wants to get enrolled their selves for further education and here the facility of online admission works. It provides a convenient way through ICT based application for the learners to get enrolled their selves for any particular programme from open and distance learning mode of university. The overall procedure of online admission is also known as E- admission. Following are the main steps of online admission process:

- (a) Pre Admission Counselling: In these process counsellors provides the information about open and distance learning mode and its overall concept with its examination and study structure. Counsellors clear all kinds of doubts and myths of the learners and describe them the benefits of open and distance learning. Pre admission counselling process involves following steps:
 - (i) At first counsellors defines the aim and objective of the open and distance learning as well as related programme.
 - (ii) Defines the scheme structure and concept of open and distance learning.
 - (iii) Introduce programmes offered by the Institution for the learners of different streams and background so they can select the right one for their future studies.
 - (iv) Clarify the patterns of admission, course work, assignment and process of examination.
 - (v) In this process counsellors explain the structure of programmes and its credit structure to the learners so they can understands the learning process of their programme.
 - (vi) In the process of pre admission counselling counsellors also provides the acknowledgement of the goals, outcome and the purpose of the programme so the learner from related fields can decide that in which kind of programme he/she wants to get enrolled.
- (vii) At the end of the process of pre admission counselling e-programme guide has been provided to the learners by the counsellors.
- (viii) Submission of Online Admission Form: If the learners are satisfied with the nature of programme from their fields with their interest than he/she will go for the online admission process after the process of pre admission counselling. The process of submission an application form is the second step of online admission process in which learners have to submit their application form for the particular programme in which they want to get enrolled through online admission process. For the process of submitting online admission form university will provide online application form and its submission link into their official web portal. Learners just have to open the university's web portal and have to click the link of online admission form and then they have to full the application form with required details of the learner along with his/her educational qualification as per rules and regulation of the university and then have to submit the form for further process.
- (ix) Online Fee Payments and its Acknowledgement: After the submission process of the form the next process of the online admission process will occur that is the fee payment and its acknowledgement for any particular programme. It is the most convenient way to pay the fee of any particular programme to the university. After the process of form submission another page automatically pops up in which overall details related to the fee structure of selected programme has been defined along with its duration of fee payments so the learner can understand the fee payment procedure. In the next step of this process learners will enter the amount of their programme as per fee structure and then they have to click the payment option where multiple choices are there like debit card, credit card, internet banking and other payment option from which the learners can select the suitable one to pay the asking fee amount just after this an acknowledgement generated automatically for the learners to their contact detail and email for the confirmation of fee payment along with the printable receipt of the fee.
- (x) Approval Process and the Generation of Enrolment Number: After the process of fee payment learners just have to wait for the approval of their submission from the university officials. In this process university verifies the details of the learner as per the rules and regulation of the university to get enrolled in a particular programme that the learner is eligible for the

programme or not. After the verification and approval from the university officials the registration number along with enrolment number of the learner has been automatically generated and it will send to the learner in his/her contact detail as well as in their email with the information of their eligibility confirmation message that the fulfil the eligibility criteria or not in the form of YES and NO.

- (xi) Confirmation to the Learner: After the above all process the online admission in ODL has comes to its end and the final message of confirmation of learners successfully registration along with their enrolment number has been sent into their mobile number as well as into their email id. This provides the acknowledgement to the learner that he/she has been enrolled in the programme they have chosen to learn.

Above all the process involves in the online admission process required ICT tools software and digital devices to complete the process. ICT based tools and device provides easy access of the computer, web world/Internet and related software so the process of online admission can become easy so it can be accessible for the learners who are not aware from the computational word. ICT is a potentially powerful tool for online admission process by it can improve the performance, accuracy and reliability of online admission process in ODL mode of education.

III ADVANTAGES AND LIMITATION OF ICT IN ONLINE ADMISSION PROCESS FOR ODL

Online admission process in open and distance learning provides the accessibility to the learners for the admission in selected programme from anywhere and from anyplace. It gives the command directly to the learners to get registered their selves in ODL mode of education through online admission. The implementation of ICT in online admission process will save the time, cost and extra expenses on papers. It also provides the easiest way to access the technology even by the learner who is not friendly with technology. The transparency of the online admission process over offline admission process is more desirable so the admission process for the learners is unbiased.

The effective integration of ICT tools into the ODL education system for online admission process is complex, lengthy and time consuming that involves not just technology but also pedagogy, institutional readiness and implementation of complete academic structure with full administrative command for the online admission process. It also noticeable that the terms and condition for the admission of any programme regarding to institutional guidelines needs to be implement for proper process so the

reliability of this process will increase. The biggest problem in implementation of ICT tools is connectivity because internet is not available or having a poor connection in ruler areas so it is not possible to access all devices in online admission process for the learners of remote areas.

IV CONCLUSION

Information and communication technologies (ICT) are potentially powerful enabling tools for educational change and reform. It is true that ICT is playing a vital role not just in regular mode of education but as well as in open distance learning mode. ICT has enormous potential to help countries address issues of access to learning, quality of the teaching-learning process and management of education systems but at same time there are many issues and challenges that are to be addressed for smooth functioning of various online services that are to be implemented for the learners and other public. In this paper the role and importance of ICT implementation in online admission process in open and distance education has been described. The research paper concludes the benefits of online admission system in open and distance mode of education over the offline admission process. Lack of systematic approach in the implementation of ICTs in distance education is also a challenging task so here in this paper, limitation of ICT based tools for the online admission process has been described. The paper defines the value, importance, advantages, benefits, drawback and overall process of online admission in open and distance mode of education.

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