

## POTENTIAL OF ICT IN YOUTH EMPOWERMENT: ATTITUDE OF POST GRADUATE STUDENTS

Dr. Anjana B.Nair

Assistant Professor, N.S.S.Training College, Ottapalam

### Abstract

*A successful nation, in modern times, requires that the citizens must be participants in its social, cultural, economic and political activities, well-informed and influential. This requirement can be satisfied only by making the masses, especially the youth, prepared for an effective commitment to a sense of unity. Swami Vivekananda is also given more importance to the youth. In this 21<sup>st</sup> century youth are very much influenced by Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Hence youth empowerment and ICT is very much linked to each other.*

*The present study was aims to find out the attitude of Post Graduate Students towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment. A representative group of Post Graduate students from various institutions was randomly selected as sample. A questionnaire constructed by the investigators was used to find out the attitude of Post Graduate Students towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment. The study reveals that Post Graduate Students have an average attitude towards the potential of ICT in empowering the youth.*

Keywords: Youth Empowerment, ICT

### Introduction

It is an established fact that major sectors of the World's economy are already utilizing the capacity of information technology to improve life generally. ICT has been acknowledged as a powerful engine of development (Rayport and Jaworski, 2002).

Across the globe, countries have recognized ICT as an effective tool in catalyzing the economic activity in efficient governance, and in developing human resources. Hence youth empowerment and ICT is very much linked to each other. Today's youth gives more importance to ICT in their social life for different activities. IT together with Communication Technologies has brought about unprecedented changes in the way people communicate; conduct business, pleasure and social interaction. "Youth empowerment is an attitudinal, structural, and cultural process whereby young people gain the ability, authority, and agency to make decisions and implement change in their own lives.

The International Youth Foundation (IYF) recognizes the enormous roles of ICTs in youth empowerment and concluded as follows:

- That children and young people are very appropriate target group for ICTs initiatives as they are very enthusiastic about new technologies and quick to learn new skills.
- Despite their motivation, it is suitable for knowledgeable adults to support their experience with ICTs

- Provision of access of ICT and ensuring its effective use for teaching and learning.
- ICTs to be utilized as delivery mechanisms for remote areas.
- Youths ICTs initiatives could be used to address issues ranging from basic education and HIV/AIDS prevention amongst others.

### **Need and significance of the study**

Youth are the back bone of every nation be it a developed nation, under developed or developing nation. Giving youth the liberty and the empowerment coupled with tremendous amount of zeal holds the secret of successful nation. Today there are many ways for empowering the youth. But in this 21<sup>st</sup> century the youth are in close relation with the different ICT tools in their daily life. ICT offer them better ways for faster communication, a medium for expressing their views, a space for their recreational activities and for many other opportunities for them. Swami always trusts on youths and he also specifies the importance of youth empowerment for the development of the nation. In this context the investigator tries to find out the attitude of Post Graduate Students towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment.

### **Objectives**

1. To find out the attitude of post-graduate students towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment
2. To test whether there exists any significant difference in the attitude of post-graduate students towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment for the subsamples based on
  - (a) Gender: Male/Female
  - (b) Subject: Science/Arts

### **Hypotheses**

1. Post-graduate students have an average attitude towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment.
2. There is no significant difference in the attitude of post-graduate students towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment for the subsample based on
  - (a) Gender: Male/Female
  - (b) Subject: Science/Arts

### **Methodology**

Survey method was adopted to collect data from the Post graduate Students. The present study was conducted on a representative sample of 78 post-graduate students from various institutions. The sample was selected by using stratified random sampling technique giving due representations to factors such as gender and subject of the post-graduate students. The tool used for the collection of data was a questionnaire which was prepared and validated by the investigator.

### Statistical Techniques used

- Basic statistical techniques such as arithmetic mean, median and standard deviation.
- Percentage analysis.
- Significance of difference between the means.

### Analysis and Interpretation of the data

The analysis and interpretation of the data collected from 78 post-graduate students selected by means of a validated questionnaire was done to check the attitude towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment and to compare the attitude of post-graduate students towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment based on gender and subject.

#### Attitude of Post Graduate Students towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment.

The mean, median and standard deviation of the total sample based on the attitude of post-graduate students towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment were calculated. The values are given below.

**Table 1:** Results of descriptive statistics about the attitude of post-graduate students towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment.

Total sample	Mean	Median	Standard Deviation
78	36.81	38	5.02

### Percentage analysis

The sample was classified into three groups based on their scores in the attitude of post-graduate students towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment. The values are given below. As per this table most of the Post Graduate Students (67%) belongs to the average category. 15% students possess low level of attitude and 18% Post Graduate Students had high level of attitude towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment.

**Table 2:** Results showing number and percentage of Post Graduate Students with high, average and low attitude towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment.

Level of attitude	Number	Percentage
High	14	18%
Average	52	67%
Low	12	15%

### Comparison of the attitude Post Graduate Students towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment.

The next section of analysis was based on the objective to test whether there exists any significant difference in the attitude of Post Graduate Students towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment based on variables such as subject and gender. To study whether there exists any significant difference in mean scores between two categories; the data were analyzed by test of significance for difference between mean scores.

**Table 3:** Comparison of the attitude Post Graduate Students towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment.

Variables	Sub samples	N	Mean	S.D	Critical ratio	Level of significance
Gender	Male	36	36.33	5.34	0.855	P>0.05*
	Female	42	36.36	4.76		
Subject	Science	38	37.26	5.19	0.781	P>0.05*
	Arts	40	36.36	4.83		

(\* not significant at .01 level of significance)

The mean and standard deviation of the attitude of Post Graduate Students towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment of male students are 36.33 & 5.34 and that of female students are 36.36 & 4.76 respectively. When their differences in means were tested for significance of difference between means, we get a t- value of 0.855 which is less than the values for .01 and .05 levels of significance. Hence it is inferred that there is no significant difference between the attitudes of Post Graduate Students towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment based on their gender. Hence hypothesis 2 (a) is accepted.

The mean and standard deviation of the attitude of Post Graduate Students towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment of students studying science subjects are 37.26 & 5.19 and that of arts students are 36.36 & 4.83 respectively. When their differences in means were tested for significance of difference between means, we get a t- value of 0.781 which is less than the values for .01 and .05 levels of significance. Hence it is inferred that there is no significant difference between the attitudes of Post Graduate Students towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment based on their gender. Hence hypothesis 2 (b) is accepted.

### Major findings

- ❖ The Post Graduate Students have an average attitude towards the potential of ICT in empowering the youth.
- ❖ There is no significant difference between the attitudes of Post Graduate Students towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment based on their gender.

- ❖ There is no significant difference between the attitudes of Post Graduate Students towards the potential of ICT in youth empowerment based on their subject of study.

### **Conclusion**

From the study it is clear that the Post Graduate Students have an average attitude towards the potential of ICT in empowering the youth. Today technology becomes an important factor in the socio-economic growth and development of regions across the globe. Adequate steps must be taken to ensure that our youths are empowered by the access of ICT and effectively participate in policy process and implementation in order to achieve sustainable socio-economic development.

### **Reference**

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