

How ICT build Participation and Allow for Inclusion?



Overview

Participation and capacity building using ICT creates a DIFFERENCE

The widespread use of multi-media and communications technology have provided young people a space for new forms of social life and political participation. It increased opportunities in volunteering areas of concern in daily life. Access to information and communication technologies (ICT), and social media, has enormous potential to the people's civic engagement and their participation. It can have positive effects in bridging the gender divide during their participation.



ICT witnesses in:



- Ø The metro or urban region, the increase in access to home computers
- Ø Cell phones have allowed young man and women to participate in public discussions
- Ø It is cost effectiveness,
- Ø Ease of use,
- Ø Youth interest
- Ø contribute to accelerating young women's equal participation
- Ø And ability to connect people in an unprecedented way,
- Ø to enable young people with disabilities



ICT represents:

- Ø Future form of social participation,
- Ø Increase transparency by giving people the power of sharing
- Ø Gain quick and easy access to information.
- Ø Connects people in different parts of the world
- Ø Integrate values, styles and desires regardless of geographical location.
- Ø Online activities are associated with volunteering and community work.
- Ø Online participation via the Internet can be transformed civic engagement for development through volunteering

The potential of ICT and new media tools:

- As a mean of ensuring young people's participation
- Leadership development in young people



It allowed for increased youth leadership, ownership over the policy process and increased youth mobilization in the global work around burning issues like AIDS,GLOBAL WARMING,SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION,TERREISM,BIO-CHEM WAR AND NATURAL OR MAN MADE DISSASTER. So ICT and their efforts have led to an improved view of young people as active agents of change and create a sense of true community inclusion.

Limitations of potential of ICT

Most of gaps further exist when it comes to Internet access & the difference appears by many factors like gender, education, income, age, access to information and a rural urban divide. This reflects that a large proportion of marginalized young people are left out of the potential that ICT can bring to empower young people. In developing countries, Internet usage has a higher proportion of male users, highlighting that the gender gap in Internet usage can't explain the level of progress. The minimum levels of Internet usage can be found among people who are not enrolled in school and have only completed primary education, as well as for people living in rural areas in all around the world. For example, it is estimated, in many parts of India, Africa, etc has less than one or two per cent of people living in rural areas were using the Internet. So efforts to bridge this gap are urgently taken, to empower young people of the world.

In first paragraph I just detailed an overview of **ICT i.e. Information and Communication Technology**. It is another or you can call it full name of IT i.e. Information Technology. With the invention of ICT whole concept of education has been modified. Below we are going in deep details that how ICT can help in participation and allow for inclusive growth of all.

Information and communication technologies are currently being used in education to assist students to learn more effectively by providing teachers with access to a wide range of new pedagogy. These technologies are also being used to enable teachers to do administrative tasks more efficiently. This paper outlines use for information and communication technologies that offers something different. This new use enables students to show teachers how to improve teaching and, in doing this, it enables students to have more informed and more profitable access to teachers' knowledge and skills.



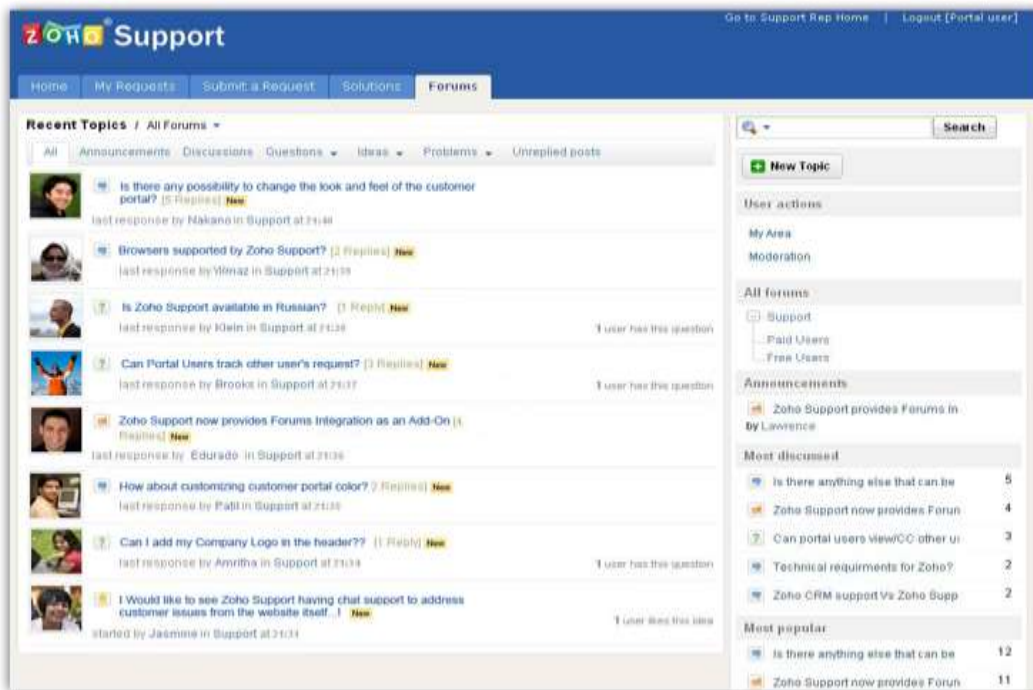


How ICT Build Participation?



Making Forums

We generally observe that many kids don't raise their hand, when teacher put question or never go to teacher to clear their doubt, this may be because of their shyness or hesitation. So our aim is to remove this hesitation and increase participation. So what I believe is making forum virtually is very interesting, where students can ask anything freely or anytime, not just in school, but also in home. In the forum we will allow other student to give answer to queries. So it will help in erasing their hesitation and increasing in participation.



Videos

Videos are always better than text. So every time instead of teaching from book is not good. So here we can include some videos or we can show them videos to clarify the concept. There are Videos available on internet. With this student starts taking part in lesson we are teaching them. We can also make videos of class activities available online – teacher tube, YouTube, video. With parent permission, you could shoot video of particularly interesting class activities and then upload the video content to a video sharing website.

Use of Social Media

Face book these days is everyone's favorite. By making groups and pages of class or student on face book will keep them up to date about everything latest happening in class or school. Sometime we notice that student miss information about quiz, debate competition or any other current program going in school, by posting it regularly on face book pages we can keep them regularly updated. So it will increase their participation. Below is example of random group.



Making Website or Blog

There are free tools available which help us to make a free website. So now the question is how this website helps in participation. First of all, we will give this website address to their parents, so that they can check their child's profile every time. So how the child is performing is always posted on that website or blog. We can post results directly, so that it becomes easy for parents to compare their child with others. Khan Academy is an example of one of the best educational sites and blogs.



Efficient Material for Teachers

Computers and the Internet are a great resource for classroom teachers! Teachers can find suggestions, lesson plans, practical support, information, and materials through the Internet. In fact, using a computer can make a teacher's life easier and more efficient.

Homework to Research Work

With the use of ICT we can convert homework into research work. By giving little bit different question to student, he or she will search for it on Google. So instead of just copying it, student will search different WebPages to find accurate answer. It will increase their participation in solving questions and doing homework.



How Inclusion is possible using ICT?

Affordable Knowledge

Investing in research material may be tedious and unaffordable for some. But, now, thanks to the Internet, we have content websites, web encyclopedias, and dictionaries whenever we want them. Today, able as well as less-able students can be benefited to the sea of knowledge through the Internet. University courses and learning is now easy for people belonging to all strata of the society with the help of online courses.

For Physically Disabled

People who are blind can use their computers by installing hardware or software that simulates the human voice reading the computer screen or produces hard-copy output in Braille. People, who have the appropriate technology, can use computer, to read text or produce Braille.



Online Courses for Everyone

Online courses provide an opportunity for people of all age groups to take up education of their choice, according to their liking and wish. Be it a student, a housewife, or a professional, they can just start up their computers, connect to the Internet, and take virtual classes. Therefore, people can now gain knowledge according to their need and time available. You are, now, never too old or too busy to learn something new.

Poor People

But for using net you must need mobile, PC or internet connection. There are many companies or organization those provide internet data use according to need. Schools should provide proper computer labs so that we can also make Wi-Fi zones in schools, every student is provided with username and password. So that students irrespective of their cast, financial condition can use internet. **School should give extra hours to students so that they can access to internet in free time.**

How to encourage Women?

ICTs have the potential to improve or remove some of the barriers or constraints that prevent women and girls from accessing educational opportunities, such as illiteracy, poverty, culture factors leading to women empowerment and gender equality. But there are additional factors

that prohibit women from ICT usage such as restricted access to the technology, high costs and lack of skills and information.



However, the lack of participation of women in the use of, and access to, ICTs can primarily be attributed to social behavior, culture and religious traditions, for example:

- Cultural and social attitudes are often unfavorable to women's participation in the fields of science and technology, which limits their opportunities in the area of ICT.
- Women should be given opportunities, to showcase their talent. ICT work such as PowerPoint presentation, content writing using Google should be given to them. Proper knowledge about Face book, Twitter and all social networking sites should be given to them.
- Policies should be made in favor of women so that they have equal chance as that of men. Today we see that IT is still male dominated field, but now as policies are changing, women are also getting equal chance as compared to that of men.



- In some societies, women are barred from public places making access to community tele centers difficult for them.
- Women are often financially dependent on men or do not have control over economic resources, which makes accessing ICT services more difficult. (courtesy :infodev)
- Allocation of resources for education and training often favors boys and men resulting in lower levels of literacy and education, including training in languages which are predominantly used in ICT platforms and the Internet.

For

Suggestion and correction work please reply soon

Thanks

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