- # 6.2 Role of the teacher in an ICT enabled environment

Concept and Meaning of ICT

ICT stands for Information and Communication Technology which is a generic term which includes technologies which are used for collecting, storing, editing, processing, creating and transmitting information from one source to another in various forms.

It is a combination of IT (Information Technology) and CT (Communication Technology) where former denotes usage of electronic equipment for storing, analysing and transmitting information and later means a process of sending, receiving and exchanging information. IT is defined as the technology used to manage information and ICT is defined as the technology used to manage information and to aid communication. ICT is a comprehensive term which combines both IT and CT for effectiveness, efficiency and innovation.

Strategies for Applying ICT in Teacher Education

1. Providing adequate infrastructure and technical support.

2. Applying ICT in all subjects.

3. Applying new Pre-service teacher Education curriculum.

4. By using application software, using multimedia, Internet e-mail, communities, understanding system software.

A technically competent teacher should be able to:

1. Operate computers and use basic software for word processing, spreadsheets, emails etc.

2. Evaluate and use computers and related ICT tools for instruction. Must know to use smart boards.

3. Apply current instructional principles research and appropriate assessment practices to the use of ICT's.

4. Evaluate educational software

5. Create effective computer-based presentations

6. Search the internet for resources

7. Integrate ICT tools into student activities across the curriculum

8. Create multimedia content to support instruction

9. Create hypertext documents to support instructions

10. Demonstrate knowledge of ethics and equity issues related to technology

11. Keep up to date as far as educational technology is concerned.

Teacher's Role in ICT Enabled environment

1. As a facilitator she/he must help his learners to develop the positive attitudes towards the changes that are taking place in their environs and also make them ready to adjust and adapt these changes.

2. As a knowledge provider her/his learners must be exposed to unending process of knowledge and make them capable to choose the right and wrong at the same time.

3. As a guide she/he must enable his learners to get acquainted with new ICT based digital knowledge and advancements.

4. As a trainer her/his learners must be trained and mastered upon the new technological tools or instruments and make them ready to utilize all these at the maximum.

5. As a capacity builder her/his learners must be capacitated with all those practicum and life skills that are necessary for living a happy life.

6. As a keen observer her/his learners must be observed for their activities during the exposition of new and vast world knowledge.

7. As a learner she/he must update her/his knowledge to keep pace with global knowledge.

8. As a team member she/he must work by taking the help of her/his fellow teachers.

In an ICT enabled environment a teacher is expected to plan, evaluate, teach and learn with ICT. A teacher's role is to use ICT in lesson planning, evaluating, recording an record keeping. Furthermore ICT must not just be treated as Demonstration of the technical skills but a tool for the facilitation.

The teacher has to understand the need of the use of the new things but also has to keep in mind a fact that one's role is to facilitate the students not to impress them with his technical skills. One's role is a key in the learning process and so one has to make their feet move with the wind and have new techniques and tools of learning so that they can give best to their students.