

# Impact of ICT in Extension Teaching for Promoting Skill Development

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## Abstract

Undoubtedly new Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has opened up awesome opportunities to rural India in terms of low cost and timely access to information. ICT is an umbrella term that includes any communication device or application such as radio, television, cellular phones, computer and network hardware and software, satellite systems and so on, as well as the various services and applications with them, such as video conferencing and distance learning. ICTs are often spoken of in a particular context, such as ICTs in education, healthcare or libraries. Extension is a continuous process designed to make the rural people aware of the problems and indicating to them the ways and means by which they can solve them. Various aspects of Home Science can be useful for rural women, but still due to lack of proper formal education, illiteracy, lack of transportation, poverty etc., somewhere they feel deprived of such essential information. Therefore, time to time extension teaching is carried out by the institutions for dissemination of knowledge. An attempt is made to see the impact of ICT in extension teaching on rural women for empowering and making them capable for small entrepreneurship. Various income generating activities were suggested and training was given with a package of 30 days duration. Data were collected with the help of interview schedule followed by participatory observation. ICT tools as audio visual aids, computer, smart phones were used. Overall impact of ICT tools was found successful in training, teaching and motivating the rural women in upgrading their standard of living.

## Keywords

ICT, Extension Education, Skill Development

## I. Introduction

Undoubtedly new Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has opened up awesome opportunities to rural India in terms of low cost and timely access to information. Information and communication technology can contribute to universal access to education, equity in education, delivery of quality learning and teaching, teachers' professional development and more efficient education management, governance and administration.

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Extension is a continuous process designed to make the rural people aware of the problems and indicating to them the ways and means by which they can solve them. Various aspects of Home Science can be useful for rural women, but still due to lack of proper formal education, illiteracy, lack of transportation, poverty etc., somewhere they feel deprived of such essential information. Therefore, time to time extension teaching is carried out by the institutions for dissemination of knowledge. Raksha and Mehta(2007) also emphasised about the role of ICT and stated

that ICT can enable us to reach the unreached and include the excluded in information, knowledge and skill empowerment and play a vital role in connecting the rural community to outside world for exchange of information. Wilbur Schramm (1953) reported that people will certainly learn from television and learning from television would not remain confined to facts only but skills, critical thinking and problem solving could also be learnt. Thus, keeping the above facts in view, the present study aimed to find out preference of using different ICT tools in training and their impact on the respondents.

## II. Methodology

Saharanpur district was selected for the present study. The purpose of the study is to see the impact of ICT in extension teaching on rural women for empowering and making them capable for small entrepreneurship. Village Balpur was selected and fifty Intermediate passed women of middle and lower-middle income group were selected by random sampling method. The data were collected by interview schedule. It was analysed by calculating frequencies and percentage. Among various income generating activities suggested by the extension trainer, garment making and designing was selected by the trainees. A package of 30 days duration training course was started with the help of various ICT tools.

## III. Results and Discussion

Table 1: Preference of Using Different ICT Tools

N=50

S.No.	Used ICT Tools	Preference of ICT Tools in Garment Making & designing
		Frequency*
1	Computer	45(90)
2	Demonstration through OHP	41(82)
3	Mobile Phones	42(84)
4	Internet	32(64)

Table 2: Impact of ICT Tools in Training

N=50

S.No.	Statements Showing Impact of ICT Tools	Frequency*
1	Making training easy and understandable	41(82)
2	Helpful in increasing creativity	41(82)
3	Introducing new fashion trends	44(88)
4	Increasing innovativeness	47(94)
5	Helps in increasing ideas	46(92)
6	Helpful in replacing Traditional Training methods	49(98)
7	Promoting knowledge about market trends, credit facility and sale	48(96)

Table 1 depicts the data regarding the preference of respondents of using different ICT tools. Multiple responses were received from respondents. Amongst the ICT tools the responses reveal that 90 % of the respondents liked the use of computer during training, followed by mobile phones 84% and demonstration through OHP 82%. Only 64% of the total sample preferred Internet due to its expensiveness and poor connectivity in rural areas. But the overall findings of the table reveals that majority of the sample liked the ICT tools used, as the concept was comparatively new to the traditional form of training.

Table 2 indicates the impact of using ICT tools in training. Highly favourable responses were received in relation to these tools. Most of the respondents (98%) felt these tools are helpful in replacing traditional training methods as they were bored while (96%) of the respondents felt good impact of these tools in promoting knowledge about market trends, credit facility and sale. 94% of the respondents liked these tools due to increasing innovativeness, followed by increasing ideas(92%), introducing new fashion trends (88%). Similar percentage (82%) was recorded about these tools- making training easy and understandable & in increasing creativity.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

It is concluded from the study that ICTs are significant for every training as they make training course easily understandable, interesting and moreover helpful in fostering vast knowledge about every training aspect. Specially these are more beneficial for small entrepreneur as it provides them adequate knowledge about credit facility, market value and sale counters. Since rural areas are still deprived of ICTs, so training through ICTs becomes much beneficial for them.

#### **References**

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#### **Note:**

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage in their respective category.

\*Multiple responses were allowed.