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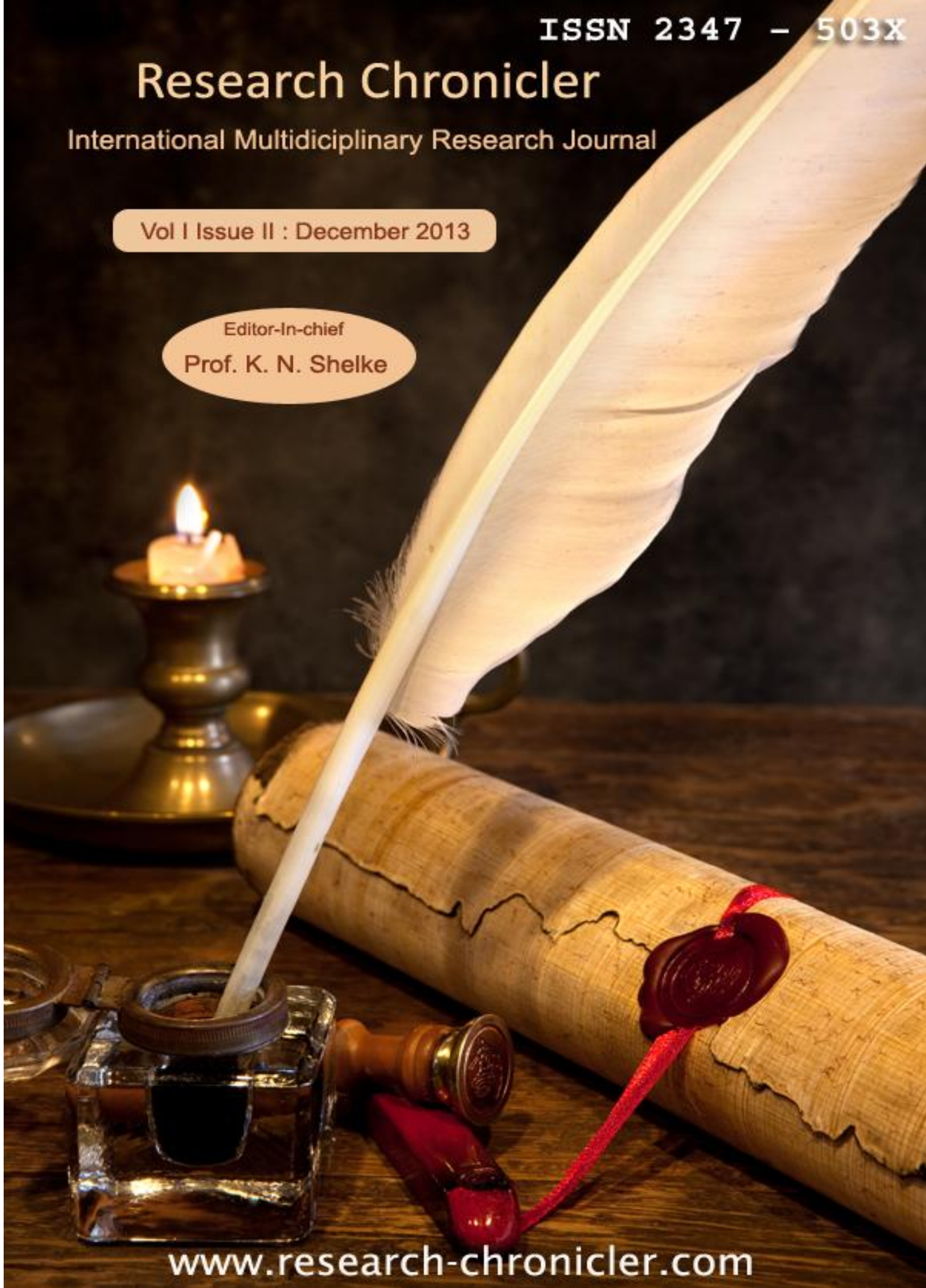
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ICT: As an Effective Tool for Teacher Trainees

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Abstract

The age of information and communication technologies has entailed significant changes in education system. It impacts the whole education systems. It is influencing and changing the world and human life. Thus, succeeding generations as well as teacher will face the challenges of adjusting to new educational environment. For that role of the teachers are changing. There are many teaching and learning situations where technology would be closely interlinked that it becomes very hard to tell for sure where one ends and the other begins. There are so many devices which we can use in ICT. Computer is the best example of the use of ICT in education. Hence, the question arises: How can teachers learn all of this? This paper shows that how to use the ICT in Teacher Training programs and what should be the curriculum for the student teachers.

Key Words: ICT, Computer, teacher training.

The age of information and communication technologies has entailed significant changes in education system. It impacts the whole education systems. It is influencing and changing the world and human life. Thus, succeeding generations as well as teacher will face the challenges of adjusting to new educational environment. For that role of the teachers are changing. There are many teaching and learning situations where technology would be closely interlinked that it becomes very hard to tell for sure where one ends and the other begins. Now a day various communication devices are used i.e. radio, television, cellular phones, computer, network hardware and

software, as well as the various services and applications associated with them, such as videoconferencing, audio conferencing and web conferencing. Here are so many devices which we can use in ICT. Computer is the best example of the use of ICT in education. Hence, the question arises: How can teachers learn all of this? ICT is one of the most important and interesting tool that can be introduced in teacher training programs. It considered as a medium whenever they are used to support teaching and learning. The main aim of ICT in teacher training program is to improve the teaching learning process. So that question is raised that how can student teacher use the ICT and what should be included in their curriculum?

2 How to use ICT

In teacher training program ICT can be used as a tool for teaching by Teacher Educator, so that student teachers can learn how to use ICT in their particular subjects. Teacher training institutions and programs must also give guidance in determining how the new technologies can best be used in the context of the needs and economic conditions of their country. Student teacher can trained to use ICT in following ways/forms i.e.

1. Available Material
2. Developed the material

1. **Available Material:** Available material is already developed material, which is developed by another person/ programmer and used by another person i.e. teachers and student teachers. Here student teachers has less knowledge or only basic knowledge of computer so that they can't develop the teaching material. In that condition they can use available material in their classrooms. These types of materials are available in the form of CDs, Audio-Video Cassettes and Programs telecasting on Radio and Television.

2. **Developed the Material:** This is the way in which teachers can develop the material by themselves with the help of computer and other ICT devices. Computer based material can be developed through Power point, Programming Language and Web Designing, and by employing Multimedia Approach.

(A) Power Point: In Power Point teacher can develop the slides in different modes i.e. text based, graphics based/ pictorial form, both text and pictorial form and also teacher can develop slides from already available materials. For

Example a teacher educator wants to teach stimulation variation skill in Micro teaching so that he/she can take some parts/shots of any action movies or educational CDs. Secondly Teacher can develop the puzzles, quiz etc. on power point.

(B) Programming Language: There are so many computer languages are used in developing computerized learning material as C, C++, JAVA, ORACLE, FOXPRO, VISUAL BASIC etc. Using these types of languages teacher can motivate the student teachers to develop the various software materials like-Arithmetical learning software – to find out the largest number, arranging the numbers in increasing and decreasing order etc. Teacher can also develop games, puzzles and quiz etc.

(C) Web Designing: Through HTML and Web.net teacher can develop programs and linked their program with web sites. The process of designing web pages, web sites, web applications or multimedia for the Web may utilize multiple disciplines, such as animation, communication design, graphic design, human-computer interaction, information architecture, interaction design and search engine optimization.

Teacher can make teaching effective with the help of WEB. Instructors' can use various software i.e. Flash, Illustrators, Corel draw and 3-D Animations so that they can make animated pictures, animated materials, 2-D & 3-D pictures to better teaching learning. For example a teacher can teach the parts of plants then the teacher can develop the animated pictures including various parts of plant or when the teacher wants to show the concept of force then he/she can develop and use the animated pictures and so on.

(D) Employing Multimedia: “Multimedia can be interpreted as a combination of information carriers, for example video, CD-ROM, floppy disc and Internet and software in which the possibility for an interactive approach is offered” (Smeets, 1996).

Multimedia pertains to the combined use of more than one type of media. With the help of multimedia we learn how to use multi devices at a time. Here instructor can use different types of devices & the bunch of programs which developed through various softwares. In other words a multimedia presentation may combine audio, text, animated pictures, 2-D, and 3-D graphics and more than one hardware tools etc.

3. ESSENTIAL QUALITIES REQUIRED TO TRAINEES

1. To use Already Prepared material and PowerPoint presentation all Teacher trainees should have the basic knowledge of computer.
2. To develop the material with the help of Programming Languages one should having a thorough knowledge of the particular language.
3. For Web Designing we need expert in a particular field i.e. expert in HTML.
4. If one can make their program more effective then he/she should have skilled in 2-D animation, 3-D animation, Illustrator and Coral Draw etc.

4. *Suggestion to modify the curriculum of teacher trainees for ict*

As Singapore’s only pre-service teacher training institute, the National Institute of Education (NIE) included three kinds of ICT courses for student teachers: (i) Basic ICT-skill workshops, (ii) A 26-hour elective course and (iii) A 30-hour ICT foundation course.

Basic ICT skill workshops, paid for by students, are provided by external organizations and cover word processing, PowerPoint, Internet literacy, and other technical skills. A 26-hour elective course covers the design and production of computer-based instruction. A 30-hour ICT foundation course is entitled “Instructional Technology” and covers: “learning, thinking and the effective use of instructional technologies in the classroom; instructional planning models; selecting, creating, evaluating, and integrating instructional technologies and resource materials; promoting creativity and complex thinking through ICT project work activities; and organizing and managing instructional activities with appropriate ICT resources in the classroom.” Besides taking these courses, NIE students pursuing a Diploma in Education must have five weeks of practicum during the first year of their pre-service training and ten weeks during the second year.

As shown in the NIE’s case, this approach can be used in teacher training curriculum in the following manner:

- a. Student teachers who have no basic knowledge about the computer: Looking at present status of ICT it is demand of

time to introduce ICT as compulsory one course paper for those students in the curriculum of Teacher Training Program.

- b. Students having basic knowledge: For these students designing and production of computer-based instruction should be included in the curriculum of training courses in the form of interdisciplinary elective subject. May be with collaboration of external organization such as EMRC, Multimedia Institutions etc.
- c. Student having Basic as well as designing and production knowledge: For these students web based instructions as well as learning, thinking and the effective use of instructional technologies in the classroom; instructional planning models; selecting, creating, evaluating, and integrating

instructional technologies and resource materials; promoting creativity and complex thinking through ICT project work activities; and organizing and managing instructional activities with appropriate ICT resources in the classroom should be taught. Here that can be implemented by introducing either in form of specialization paper in ICT or diploma/degree course of ICT and Instructional Technology.

5 Conclusion

In this way we can see that information and communication technology provide wonderful tools through which teaching learning process could be improved and effective, but demands more and more critical role in training process. If the ICT curriculum for trainees is elective in nature i.e. according to individual differences and their basic knowledge then they can use ICT in better way in future generation and competent to face the challenges for any educational problems.

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