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Teachers awareness about SAKSHAT: a 'One Stop Education Portal'

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Abstract*— The ICT in education was launched few years before, The use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) in education is taken very seriously by governments and education systems around the world. The Ministry of HRD, under a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme, namely, National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NME-ICT) plans to leverage the potential of ICT to provide high quality, personalized and interactive knowledge modules over the internet/intranet for all the learners in Higher Education Institutions in an any time any where mode. Technology is developed to solve problems associated with human and technical need. Although standalone computers have been in most schools and colleges for more than two decades now, networked ICT is comparatively new for many schools and colleges as they continue to tackle with how to use ICT to boost teaching and learning environments. Moderately college teachers in sangli city have become very uneducated through attending courses and developing their personal interests in ICT. The current study focus on teacher's awareness and literacy about Sakshat portal lunched by MHRD for lifelong education.

Keywords — ICT, SAKSHAT a 'One Stop Education Portal, 'Aakash', Virtual Class.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of HRD, under a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme, namely, National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NME-ICT) plans to leverage the potential of ICT to provide high quality, personalized and interactive knowledge modules over the internet/intranet for all the learners in Higher Education Institutions in an any time any where mode. As part of this initiative, a low cost computing cum access device called `Aakash' was developed. Every one must be aware that our Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development launched `AAKASH' the world's Lowest Cost Computing-cum-Access Device on October 5, 2011 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

Using Aakash, students can access the educational e-content that is getting created in a massive program under NME-ICT for UG and PG courses. E-content that is ready is uploaded on our Sakshat portal (http://www.sakshat.ac.in) and the content would continue to increase and shall be made available to every Indian learner. The NME-ICT is further committed to provide broadband connectivity to all higher educational institutions in the country. 75% of the cost of providing this connectivity for a 10 year period has been provided by the Govt. of India under NME-ICT. Similarly, 75% of the cost of establishing a LAN at each University is being met by the Govt. of India under NME-ICT. Apart from this, Departments of the University and Colleges shall be provided Local Area Network connectivity..

Read more at:
http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/sakshat-tablet-to-be-unveiled-on-wednesday/1/153618.html

II. AKSHA: COMPUTING CUM ACCESS DEVICE

Fig: AKSHA computing device

Aksha is a world low cost computing cum access device for students use in virtual education through NME-ICT lunched MHRD.

Under the NME-ICT during the 11th Plan period, funding of Rs. 700 crores is available for providing 50% subsidy to every University / Institution / College for procurement of computing devices. The vision is that the effective use of technology in imparting education should enable each student of an institution in India to enhance his/her capability. The present delivered cost of `Aakash' is Rs. 2276 per device. Institutions of higher education can procure 'Aakash' by contributing 50% of this cost as the balance 50% would be borne by the Govt. of India under NME-ICT. Thus, to a University, College or Institution the `Aakash' tablet would be available at around Rs. 1138 per device. This would enable them even to issue `Aakash' tablets to their students on a pattern similar to the book bank scheme. Naturally, the demand is expected to be very high and we would like to get a clear picture of the total requirement

III. INVITATION TO TEACHERS TO JOIN SAKSHAT – AN EDUCATION PORTAL ON INTERNET

(Source:www.cbse.nic.in/prosak1.doc)

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has designed an education helpline named 'Sakshat'. It is perceived to be a single stop education portal for addressing the needs of students, scholars, teachers and life long learners.

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It is a free portal launched by the Hon'ble President of India on 30th October 2006. CBSE has joined this unique endeavor to facilitate particularly Class XI and XII students.

The portal will be fully interactive from 26th January 2007. Students can make one to one interactions with subject experts selected by the MHRD and CBSE. These experts can be contacted for guidance in the following subjects on all days between 5.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.:

1. Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology
2. Accountancy, Business Studies
3. English Core and Functional English

The website can be accessed at the following urls

1. http://www.sakshat.ac.in
2. http://sakshat.ignou.ac.in/sakshat/index.aspx
3. http://sakshat.gov.in

The education portal can be accessed through broadband internet connectivity. The Virtual Class components and other log-in based features can also be accessed by logging in as user id guest1 and password guest1 on site Nos. 1 and 2 and using user id guest and password guest on the site no. 3.

IV. VIRTUAL CLASS

The portal offers various online courses under Spoken tutorials and NPTEL programs. The topics have been divided into four quadrants i.e. e-content, web resources, e-tutor and self-assessment.

Around 15 Universities including Punjab Technical University, Barkatullah University, The Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (IASE) University and Goa University attended the online interaction.

A-VIEW is an E-Learning platform, developed by Amrita University's E-Learning Research Lab, which is state-of-the-art software for distance education and collaboration. It is available for free to all the educational institutes across India, and can be downloaded from website address, www.aview.in or send an email to aview@amrita.edu

V. SAKSHAT: A ONE STOP EDUCATION PORTAL

SAKSHAT: A One Stop Education Portal launched on October 30, 2006 by His Excellency, the then President of India to facilitate lifelong learning for students, teachers and those in employment or in pursuit of knowledge free of cost to them. The content development task for 'SAKSHAT' was looked after by the Content Advisory Committee (CAC) for the respective subject, which consisted of representatives from educational institutions like IGNOU, Delhi University, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangthan (KVS), Navodyaya Vidyalaya Sangthan (NVS), National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and prominent academicians in the field. In addition, some NGOs had also provided the contents developed by them free of cost for this portal.

The vision is to scale up this pilot project 'SAKSHAT' to cater to the learning needs of more than 50 crore people through a proposed scheme of 'National Mission in Education through Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The scheme is to provide connectivity to all institutions of higher learning to world of knowledge in the cyber space, to leverage the potential of ICT, in providing high quality knowledge modules with right e-contents, to address to the personalized needs of learners, in order to take care of their aspirations. These modules are to be delivered through 'SAKSHAT'.

Reference: "SAKSHAT" a 'One Stop Education Portal' (http://www.sakshat.ac.in).

The high quality e-content once developed will be uploaded on SAKSHAT in all disciplines and subjects. Several projects are in the completion stage and are expected to change the way teaching and learning is done in India.

VI. METHOD AND DATA SOURCES

The survey model was used for this research, which aimed at assessing teachers' awareness about the use of SAKSHAT portal. The data collection technique that was used in the study in order to determine the current situation is interviews. Interviews have been conducted with teachers in order to determine their awareness about the SAKSHAT portal . In the research, semi-structured interviews have been conducted with 50 teachers. Questionnaire is a widely used and useful instrument for collecting survey information, providing structured data being able to administrate by researcher and being comparatively straightforward to analyze.

Table 1: Sampling Unit. (N=50)

Detail		Number	Percents (%)
Teachers	Male	31	62
	Female	19	38

Structured questionnaire was used to collect primary data. It conations data about Teachers opinion about SKSHAT portal. 7 questions of 5 points scale is as follows:

Q1). The use of SAKSHAT could contribute to radical change in education system
Q2). SAKSHAT could make a strong E-content library
Q3). SAKSHAT could improve literacy rates of students
Q4). SAKSHAT could improve achievement rates of students
Q5). SAKSHAT can have a big contribution to the learning/teaching practice..
Q6). SAKSHAT ICT can have a big contribution to the development of the country.
Q7). SAKSHAT could provide e-education from anywhere and anytime.

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VII. ANALYSIS

Data is classified and presented in tables. Analysis is done by using Mean, Weighted Average. Data is processed and analyzed using MS-Excel software

N=50 Table B.2: Teachers opinion about SKSHAT portal

Q	SA	A	NA-ND	D	SD	WA
1	31	6	3	5	5	3.928571
2	22	14	5	4	5	4.357143
3	12	24	6	5	3	3.678571
4	41	5	2	1	1	3.5
5	21	9	8	6	6	4.285714
6	16	19	5	4	6	4.178571
7	20	12	7	5	6	3.642857

From Diagram.1

Researcher was found that 62 % teachers strongly agree and 12 % teachers agree on the use of SAKSHAT could contribute to radical change in education system.

44 % teachers strongly agree and 28 % teachers agree on the SAKSHAT could make a strong E-content library.

24 % teachers strongly agree and 48 % teachers agree on the SAKSHAT could improve literacy rates of students.

82 % teachers strongly agree and 10 % teachers agree on the SAKSHAT could improve achievement rates of students.

42 % teachers strongly agree and 18 % teachers agree on the SAKSHAT can have a big contribution to the learning/teaching practice.

32 % teachers strongly agree and 38 % teachers agree on the SAKSHAT ICT can have a big contribution to the development of the country.

40 % teachers strongly agree and 24 % teachers agree on the SAKSHAT could provide e-education from anywhere and anytime.

VIII. RESULTS

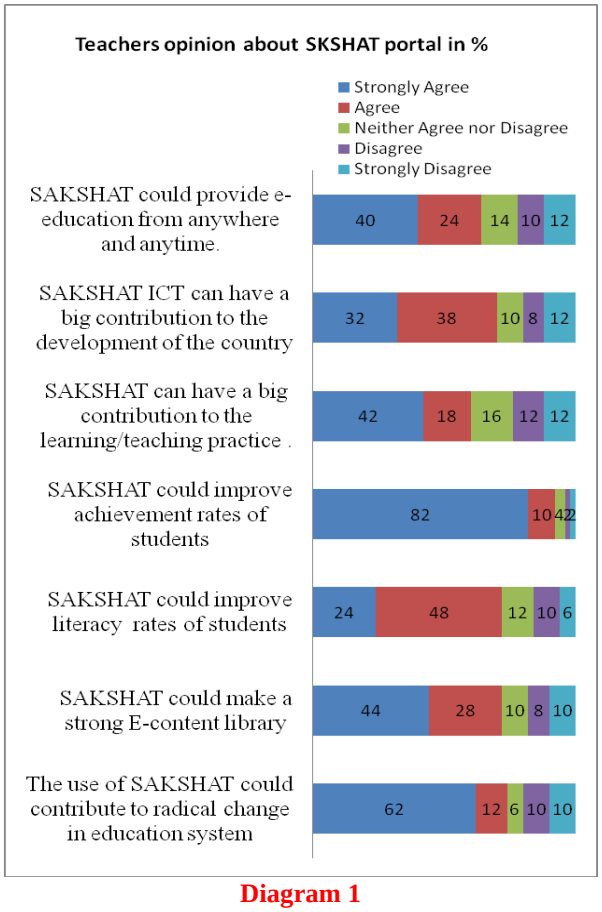

Diagram 1

IX. CONCLUSION

From this survey researcher found that teacher's opinion about **SKSHAT portal** is very positive. Result of this study suggests that learning with ICT is important issue. Teachers lacking positive attitudes toward ICT and SAKSHAT portal must be taken dangerously. The educators should create and adopt technologies that address Educational problems and/or get better productivity. Thus the educational technology process begins with the recognition of an educational problem not with the existence of a technology. In other words, we need to start with the well-supported attitude we have about learning and teaching through ICT and make sure that solutions given by SAKSHAT portal are reliable with them. The new methods must be developed to increase the attitudes of teachers toward registration on SAKSHAT portal as a teacher, who can upload their own created digital material on SAKSHAT portal. This study understands teachers' attitude and beliefs of using ICT and SAKSHAT portal is essential in education.

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