

Information and Communication Technology as a boon for the public in the scenario of COVID- 19: An Overview

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Abstract

This study examines at length the value and importance, role, tools, advantages and disadvantages of Information and Communication Technology for the public in the scenario of Covid-19. ICT by exerting a tremendous impact on every sphere of the world, since the enhancement of ICT has made enormous changes in all fields, during the lock down period of Covid-19 and also peoples are restricted unnecessarily to come out from their houses, under this circumstances the ICT has helped the society for knowing the Corona virus, its seriousness, affected countries, causes of virus, precautions, safety measures, quarantine or social distance and also ICT helps the society to work from home and it is very much useful to the students for online materials and also for teaching online courses.

Keywords : ICT, Covid-19, quarantine, social media, cloud computing, network, hardware, software

Introduction

Information and Communication Technology depicts any technology that control or permit the storage space, processing and information flow within an organization. ICT is nothing but anything concerned with computers, software, networks, intranets, web sites, servers, databases and telecommunications. There can't be find any space without Information Technology, it involves all small – large businesses. Information Technology is a very common in all fields for maintaining database, the manual records will not be remain for longer due to

natural disorders, climate bookworms etc., but information technology will not be affected by these kind of factors. Now a days the universities and colleges managing its student's data base through this ICT, not only intellectual places hospitals, ICT Companies, Government departments etc also performance through computers for accumulate, repossess, convey and maneuver data or information. According to the places the function of the ICT differs i.e for hospital , the patients database is storing , for police department the criminal cases have storing and retrieving and tracking is very much help them to find out the criminal activities, ICT companies storing its staff list, so the works may differs place to place, but the common thing is data management. An information technology meant for communicating the information through computer, android and any other equipment which was connected technically by network it includes all hardware, software and peripheral equipment operated by a limited group of users. This article explores the needs and importance of Information Technology in the scenario of COVID 19. COVID-19 is a full form of Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an transferable disease caused by harsh sensitive respiratory condition coronavirus . The disease was first known in 2019 in Wuhan, the capital of China's Hubei area and has since multiply globally, ensuing in the continuing 2019-20 coronavirus pandemic. The enormous growth of Information Technology have communicates such serious information to the entire world. This virus spreads all over world, here the information technology help us to get information about this virus and also makes us aware of this virus. At present the Government has announced the order of section 144, so the people suppose to not come out from their houses, the situation of the people is just like house arrest, Information Technology is a only boon for the people on this occasion, the information and other country and local activities known by their computer or android mobile via information technology. So the information technology is definitely as a boon for the people in the scenario of COVID-19 .

Importance of Information and Communication Technology in the scenario of Covid- 19

Generally speaking, ICT is a communication system; it is operated by a limited group of members through a computer system, which includes hardware, software and certain peripheral equipments. The main importance of ICT is communicating the information to various places. When we think about the ICT we cannot tell exact period of its invention, in about 3000 BC the

Sumerians and Mesopotamia were developed their writing and it was stored and retrieved from various methods but they don't have any communicative system, so their writings were used only by few peoples, but in current the information is passed through various communicative system to a huge number of peoples. The world were faced many natural disorders and deceases etc, immediately it may passed to all over world via various information technology. The current scenario of Covid-19 was first identified in China , many people's were affected and died through this virus, in this situation we all came to know about this decease and got awareness by Information and Communication Technology , so ICT was very important, because it was shared many information to each and everyone.

Role of Information and Communication Technology in the scenario of Covid- 19

Information storage is a biggest challenge, after the development of Information technology, it becomes very easy. Retrieval of information is an another challenge, after the development of Information Technology it has become very simple to retrieving information. IT communicates information through various systems that too very fast

1. The Covid -19 affected the entire world , the Government has decided to implement section 144 to stop the virus chain among the peoples, in this crisis moment Information Technology is a boon for the Government to make the people aware of Covid-19.
2. The scenario of Covid-19, the peoples came to know the seriousness of the virus by various tools of Information Technology
3. Information Communication Technology spreads the information to the entire world about the current status of the virus for example number of peoples affected and expired country wise etc.,
4. The decisions, orders, restrictions, etc., taken by the Government departments was communicated by various Information Technology.
5. Prime Minister meeting , Chief Minister meeting etc was projected in video conferencing.

Tools of Information and Communication Technology:

1. Cloud Computing

Cloud Computing is delivering services to the applications received in the search engines with the use of hardware and software over a network naturally by the Internet, the files and data may received through devices that can access the Internet. The profit of cloud service is differs according to the type of cloud service.

Examples for Cloud Computing is Gmail, Facebook, Dropbox ,Adobe Marketing Cloud, Amazon Web Services, Dell's Secure Healthcare Cloud , IBM Cloud, Citizen services.

2. Social Media

Social Media is **used** to keep in touch with the society. The social media finding peoples across the world and help them to sharing information's through the following tools

Facebook is a biggest social networking in the world, extensively used by the peoples, it is used as personal and for business. In current situation of Covid-19 people was shared many information's , video , images among the world.

Whatsapp is used by the individual with Internet access via Android phone. The Watsapp users are creating a group and passing informations between them, The Covid-19 awareness videos, information's widely spreads through whatsapp. Video call and whatsapp calls also available in this app , during this unanticipated Corona virus period the doctors and nurses are rendering their services to the peoples who affected by this virus, for which the doctors, nurses and from the police departments are not permitted to go their houses, so they are using whasapp video call for contacting their families.

WeChat is functioning **as a** free message sender to phone contacts, it is similar to whatsapp , it facilitates to its users for sending videos , pictures and allows group chat .

Instagram: Anyone 13 and more than can create account through their email ID and can select username as they like, through this Instagram people can share their photos, videos, personal opinions about the social activities and also they can get comments , like , this Instagram app is available on Apple iOS, Android and Windows Phone.

Twitter is a 'micro blogging' system that consent to the users to send and receive short posts called tweets. The user can Tweet their comments in 140 characters and it can be comprise links to several websites. **Twitter** users pursue other users. If one user follows someone they can see their tweets in their timelines.

3. Work from Home

Many public and private organizations have permitted their employees to do their work at home for obeying the Government order of section 144. The manual work may not be done at home because it needs many manual records etc, perhaps the online work can do at anywhere, it is possible at anytime, desktop computer or laptop with internet access is must. Now a day's many companies are doing such work, after completing their work they can send to the concern , in current situation of covid-19 is this kind of work is very appreciable, people are following the social distance , naturally they find much time , so the information technology is very much useful for their work.

4. Online Courses

UGC is facilitating digital learning during this unparalleled lock down time due to COVID-19 pandemic , it is requested to all universities to communicate through the college websites personal email of students , through teachers (email / whatsapp) etc for continuous learning process for the student community.

Online Courses

- 1. Swayam**
- 2. UG/PG MOCs**
- 3. E-PG Pathshala 77 PG Subjects**
- 4. e-Content Courseware in 87 UG Subjects**
- 5. Swayam Prabha DTH Platform**
- 6. CEG-UGC You Tube Channel**

Advantages of Information and Communication Technology

1. Sharing the resources to the entire world such as business, officials, personal etc.
2. Make possible for rapid communication such as documents, videos etc by using few simple steps
3. Access at anywhere where with the help of internet work can do at anywhere.
4. Time saving – for online ticket booking for flight, train, bus, movie etc and online banking for finance transaction etc., saving the time of its user.
5. Money saving – no need to go in person , it reduces the transport cost
6. Reducing paper works – it simplify the manual record works of clerks and online e-papers may reduce the news paper purchasing
7. Educating through online courses – online courses is very much helpful to the users at anywhere at any time especially this lock down time
8. Entertaining the required people –during this covid-19 quarantine time peoples need some entertainment to keep their mind relax, there are numerous games, films, channels available.
9. Increasing the technical knowledge to the users – before the period of Information technology people may have writing work only but after the invention of Information Technology the people have learnt many new technologies.
10. Earn from home is possible via Online work – Augmentation of information technology shows many new jobs to the people who can work only at home like data entry work, resource sharing etc,

Disadvantages of Information and Communication Technology

1. The hardware problem is a major problem , which will be solved only by the concern
2. Communicating many fake messages eg. Corono Virus fake messages forwarded through many social media , it makes the people scared
3. Many time it is facing network problem
4. The users are forgotten to use their memory perhaps using android memory
5. Reading and writing habits are very much abridged and watching videos and playing games are augmented.

Conclusion

The information and communication technology has made vast changes in the entire world; in fact, it is now hard to envision a world without information and communication technology. The stipulation and apply of ICT is part and package of the whole system, to organizations , Business, educational institutions, hospitals, finance , agriculture, transports, media and also individuals . ICT is most sought because of its reliable service, time saving, easy access etc., Nowadays ICT has totally changed the working style of the people that too reduced the paper work in Government and private sectors and it gives immediate and instant world news through various social media access by network, the important example is Covid-19, if there is not any technology enhancement we cannot get this much awareness from Covid-19, here the Information and Communication Technology role is very important , because virus was identified at Wuhan China, more than 9000 miles faraway from India, but the Corona virus information has transferred to the entire world very fast , so the ICT has play an imperative role in this regard. Information and communication technology is practical for on condition that information services which are more expedient, enhanced accessible and cost effectual.

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