

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS USING TECHNOLOGY**Dr.R.SIVAKUMAR,**

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ABSTRACT

Professional development is a substantial contributing factor to the success or lack of success in low-performing schools. Specific student-focused professional development can be used to increase academic achievement, school culture, and the level of effective teaching. Technology integration in teacher Education has revolutionized the way aspiring educators grow professionally by giving them access to cutting-edge resources and techniques to improve their pedagogical abilities. The future of integrating technology in Indian classrooms is promising, marked by continued advancements and increased accessibility. Efforts to bridge the digital divide among rural and urban areas will likely continue, aiming for equitable access to technology for all students. The quality of teachers and their continuing professional education and training remain central to the achievement of quality education. Yet today, the number and quality of teachers, teaching practice and teacher education are facing serious systemic challenges across the world.

Introduction

Professional development (PD) is the continuous process of improving teachers' skills, knowledge, and abilities to ensure they're up-to-date with the latest teaching techniques and educational trends. Professional development is essential for teachers to provide their students with the best possible education and positively impact the educational system as a whole. This means providing opportunities for teachers to learn and grow and creating an environment that encourages ongoing professional learning. From a teacher's perspective, professional development (PD) is the ongoing process of learning new skills and strategies to improve their

teaching practices and in order to enhance student learning outcomes. In contrast, at the school or classroom level, teachers may have the option to choose whether or not to participate. Professional development opportunities are occasionally subsidized by the school district or state. This helps provide teachers access to resources they may not otherwise be able to afford. The focus of effective professional development and learning for teachers is acquiring new teaching techniques based on emerging research and strategies for implementation.

Technology is Necessary for Teachers' Professional Development

In today's educational environment, information and communication technologies (ICTs) are critical to teachers' professional growth. This is the reason why Getting Ready for Digital Learning Settings: Since technology is being used in classrooms more and more, educators must be skilled in utilizing ICT technologies to design dynamic and productive online learning environments. ICT-focused professional development programs assist educators in gaining the abilities needed to use instructional software, traverse online platforms, and incorporate digital resources into their lesson plans.

How to improve Teaching and Learning in the classroom

- ❖ Incorporate new technologies.
- ❖ Share teaching, planning and organisational tips with other teachers.
- ❖ Reflect.
- ❖ Understand learner behaviours.

The Future of ICT in Education:

Education is rapidly evolving, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is at the forefront of this transformation. As someone deeply involved in education technology projects, I've seen how ICT is breaking barriers, enhancing access, and creating opportunities for personalized learning. Here are some trends shaping the future of education through ICT:

1. Personalized Learning Experiences

Technology enables educators to tailor learning to individual needs by:

- Using adaptive learning platforms that adjust content based on a student's progress.
- Incorporating AI-driven tools to recommend resources and activities.

Conclusion

In conclusion, The advocacy to use ICTs for professional development of teachers is based on many promises. ICT provides various opportunities for a teacher for professional development. ICT like MOOCs offer a powerful platform for education and development with almost no cost and greater efficiency. ICTs promise to support teacher professional development by providing accessible, flexible and short term online courses. ICT can promote international collaboration and networking in education and professional development.

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