



ISSN Print: 2394-7500
ISSN Online: 2394-5869
Impact Factor: 5.2
IJAR 2020; 6(5): 477-478
www.allresearchjournal.com
Received: 18-03-2020
Accepted: 25-04-2020

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Integrating ICT in Sanskrit teaching-learning: Challenges and opportunities

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22271/allresearch.2020.v6.i5g.10814>

Abstract

The explosion of digital technology has created a paradigm shift in the field of educational instructions. Of Sanskrit studies also. It is important to prioritize bridging the digital divide and providing access to technology to all students. At the same time, educators must receive adequate training to effectively use ICT tools in their teaching. With the development of interactive digital content and the availability of online resources, ICT tools have the potential to make Sanskrit teaching more engaging and accessible for students worldwide. Additionally, integrating technology can create opportunities for collaboration and sharing of resources among educators. Overall, integrating ICT in Sanskrit teaching-learning can help to preserve and revitalize the language for future generations. The purpose of this article is to examine the challenges and opportunities of integrating ICT in Sanskrit.

Keywords: ICT, interactive digital content, educators, Sanskrit teaching-learning, digital technology, intellectual heritage, ICT tools, MOOC Platform, YouTube

Introduction

Sanskrit, one of the oldest and most complex languages in the world, has been used for communication and literary purposes for over three thousand years. It is an essential part of India's cultural and intellectual heritage, with a rich literary and philosophical tradition. However, the language is facing a severe crisis of declining interest among younger generations, leading to a decrease in its use and preservation. As Teaching and learning Sanskrit is an essential part of preserving the language. To address this issue, integrating information and communication technology (ICT) in Sanskrit teaching-learning has been proposed as a solution.

Sanskrit is an ancient language that has been used for communication and literary purposes for over three thousand years. It is considered one of the oldest and most complex languages in the world, with a rich cultural and historical heritage., but it has become a challenge to attract younger generations to learn it. To address this issue, integrating information and communication technology (ICT) in Sanskrit teaching-learning has been proposed as a solution.

Challenges in Integrating ICT in Sanskrit Teaching-Learning

Despite the many benefits of integrating ICT in teaching-learning, there are also several challenges that educators must overcome. One of the primary challenges is the lack of infrastructure in many schools and universities that prevents students from accessing the necessary technology. In many cases, schools in rural areas do not have computers, internet connectivity, or other necessary ICT tools, making it impossible to incorporate technology into their learning.

Another challenge is the lack of trained teachers who can use ICT tools effectively in Sanskrit teaching. Many educators are not familiar with the latest technology and are not trained to use them effectively. Therefore, the use of technology in the classroom may not achieve the desired results if teachers do not have the necessary skills to use it.

Furthermore, there is a shortage of digital content in Sanskrit language teaching. Many educational institutions still use traditional teaching methods and materials, such as textbooks and chalkboards, which do not engage students as well as interactive digital content.

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Therefore, creating digital content in Sanskrit language education remains a significant challenge.

Opportunities in Integrating ICT in Sanskrit Teaching-Learning

Despite these challenges, integrating ICT in Sanskrit teaching-learning offers many opportunities. The use of technology can help to make Sanskrit language learning more engaging, interactive, and enjoyable. Interactive multimedia tools, such as videos, animations, and games, can make learning Sanskrit fun and exciting for students.

Moreover, integrating ICT tools can make Sanskrit teaching more accessible. Online resources and courses can be made available to students regardless of their geographic location, opening up new opportunities for students to learn the language.

The flexibility, high speed and huge storage capacity of ICT is causing Sanskrit teachers to reconceptualize and review the traditional chalk and talk method of teaching-learning. The role of Sanskrit teachers has also changed and continues to change from being an instructor to a facilitator and organiser of learning by creating digital learning environment along with digital Instructional approaches for their students. They need to appreciate the potential of ICT and have positive attitude towards implementing and integrating ICT tools into learning activities throughout the curriculum to support teaching-learning.

Finally, integrating ICT in Sanskrit teaching can provide an opportunity for educators to collaborate and share their experiences and resources. The use of social media platforms and online forums can connect educators and learners worldwide, leading to the exchange of ideas, best practices, and innovative teaching methods.

Here are some examples of online Sanskrit courses and tutorials available:

Sanskrit Studies

This platform offers a variety of online Sanskrit courses for beginners, intermediate learners, and advanced students. The courses cover Sanskrit grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and reading of classical texts.

Learn Sanskrit Online

This website provides self-paced online Sanskrit courses designed for learners of all levels. The courses focus on grammar, vocabulary, and reading comprehension, with interactive exercises and assessments.

Sanskrita Bharati

Sanskrita Bharati is an organization dedicated to promoting the learning and usage of Sanskrit. They offer online Sanskrit courses that emphasize conversational Sanskrit, making it accessible and enjoyable for learners.

My Sanskrit

My Sanskrit is an e-learning platform that offers online Sanskrit courses for beginners and intermediate learners. The courses cover grammar, vocabulary, and reading skills, with interactive lessons and practice exercises.

University Courses

Many universities worldwide offer online Sanskrit courses as part of their distance learning programs. These courses are often structured and comprehensive, covering various aspects of Sanskrit language and literature.

YouTube Tutorials

YouTube is a rich source of free Sanskrit tutorials and lessons. Several channels provide step-by-step tutorials on Sanskrit grammar, pronunciation, and reading, making it a convenient and accessible platform for learning Sanskrit.

MOOC Platforms

Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) platforms like Coursera, edX, and Udemy also offer Sanskrit courses taught by renowned scholars and educators. These courses may include video lectures, assignments, and discussion forums for interaction with fellow learners.

Conclusion

Integrating ICT in Sanskrit teaching-learning presents both challenges and opportunities. While infrastructure, teacher training, and lack of digital content are significant challenges that need to be addressed, integrating ICT tools can offer a range of benefits. As educators and institutions continue to adopt new technologies, it is essential to keep in mind that effective Sanskrit teaching and learning require a balance between traditional teaching methods and new technologies. Ultimately, integrating ICT in Sanskrit teaching-learning can play a crucial role in preserving the language and making it more accessible to future generations.

A Sanskrit teaching-learning platform brings the beauty and wisdom of Sanskrit to the digital realm, making it accessible to a global audience. By offering online courses, interactive learning tools, and access to Sanskrit resources, these platforms revive interest in Sanskrit education and promote its preservation and dissemination. In the digital age, the Sanskrit teaching-learning platform serves as a catalyst for revitalizing Sanskrit education, fostering community engagement, and nurturing a new generation of Sanskrit enthusiasts and scholars.

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