iSchools Promoting "Information Science and Technology" (IST) Domain Towards Community, Business, and Society With Contemporary Worldwide Trend and Emerging Potentialities in India

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INTRODUCTION

There are so many opportunities that come with iSchooling in terms of courses, research, job potentialities and interdisciplinary skills. Though it deals with some problems and challenges; this paper is talks about such preliminary aspects, emerging trends and possibilities in Indian context with international agenda. The chapter is illustrated some possible programme and nomenclature in this context of People-Information-Technology interaction. This is treated as a healthy and sophisticated academic innovation in the field of information, knowledge, computing and technologies where some schools have been merged into a big academic unit or school. USA is a pioneer in this regard where several information schools such as Information studies, Computer science, Management Science, Knowledge Management have been merged. And in emerging context, altogether such combined subjects called as 'Information Science & Technology'.

BACKGROUND AND ORIGIN OF I-SCHOOLS

I-Schools gained popularity during 1990's when internet reached the common people and other commercial ventures. It is in this time the explo-

sion of information has lead the development of healthy information management approach. Earlier evolution of I-Schools provided such knowledge as Library Science, Communication Science, Mass-Communication, Computer Science and Information Technology. But the interdisciplinary research lead to a closer interaction among these departments and subjects and ultimately a new academic unit called I-Schools or Information Science/ Information Science & Technology (IST) Schools or Information Schools evolved. I-Schools gained popularity during 1900 -2000 (*Abeysekera, I. and Guthrie, J. (2004), and Agarwarl, Suren, 1989*). In this period many new I-Schools emerged not only in USA but also in Europe, and African countries, though the trend was much less in Australia and Asian countries including India. I-Schools in some universities evolved as new academic and research units. However in some of the universities it was established by merging the related disciplines with computing and/or information. I-Schools today has gained a separate recognition in the academic world due to its significant role and incredible benefits.

METHODOLOGY

It is a fact that, still research on nature & domain of Information Science is tough to find out in

academic community; hence it is urgent to find out the role of Information Science or Information Science & Technology (IST) in several community; and complete Social development by the review of literature and other mode of Scientific Research. Practically, it is still tough to dig out the latest area and field of Information Science and this research work will be helpful to find out such domain. To conduct this study various tools and techniques have been used, out of which review of literature played an important role. Web Review plays an important role to find out running courses in the field of Information Science & Technology (IST) and other information and related departments. To assess educational situation and make SWOT analysis of this field, some websites were searched; these are official websites of UGC; AICTE; Government of India. The MSc- Information Science curriculum, Courses and programme structure of more than 600+ educational institutes have been assessed during this study and the main link of UGC, AICTE and MHRD have been used to find out the latest of Education Information in India.

FEATURES OF I-SCHOOLS

The establishment on *iSchool* originated during 1988, when eminent educationist and Information Scientist, Toni Carbo, School of Information Science, University of Pittsburgh; Donald Marchan, School of Information Studies, Syracuse University and Richard Lytle, College of Information Science/Information Science & Technology (IST) and Technology, Drexel University joint hands for establishment of Information association called *iSchool* Caucus. After few years in 2001, the three members' team expands to 'Gang of Five' and then in 2003 some more dean of several Information related schools join the forum and as so August, 2015 total 65 institutes fall under the same. I-Schools or Information Schools are the academic units which are dedicated to the information solution through academic and research outputs. It is primarily responsible for the collection, selection, organization, processing, management

and dissemination of information with the help of Technologies. The main difference between IT Schools and I-Schools is that, IT Schools provide Technological Manpower and solution such as database, Networking, Software, Hardware and Core Computing, Multimedia and image processing, whereas I-Schools are responsible for the Information solution or knowledge Management solution with the help of Technologies such as Database Management, Networking Technology, Multimedia Technology, Communication Technology and Web Technology. Thus I-Schools are dedicated to information solution powered by technologies (*Balwan Singh, 2004 & Paul, b, Kumar, 2012*,). I-Schools are also responsible for Information and technological application in society, commerce, health and governance. Thus I-Schools deal much more with societies and believe in interaction between Information, Technology and Society Where as IT Schools deal just about application rather than societal approach. LIS schools deal with information solution in library and similar foundations, I-Schools deal and works with several domains and institutions (*Vickery, B.C., & Vickery, A. 1987& Paul, c 2012*).

I-SCHOOLS AND I-PROGRAMS: EXISTING AND POSSIBILITIES

I-Schools offer so many programs but majority of them are in Applied Science. The flagship program in most of the academic units is Information Science and the degree as MS/MSc (Information Science/Information Science & Technology). However apart from these, I-Schools offer some specialized information programs also such as—

- **MSc/MS/BSc/BS:** Information Science/ Information Science & Technology (IST) (Human Computer Interaction)
- **MSc/MS/BSc/BS:** Usability Engineering
- **MSc/MS/BSc/BS:** Digital Repository
- **MSc/MS/BSc/BS:** Communication Systems
- **MSc/MS/BSc/BS:** Database System

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