

Chapter 6

Learning and Developing With Each Other: Case of Collaborative Innovation Through ICT in India and Canada

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ABSTRACT

ICT is a powerful tool which can be used by both India and Canada to harness the growth and development in the respective regions. Researchers and practitioners can come together from Indo-Canadian communities and take the association to a more meaningful level. The current research discusses the ICT tools that can be adopted from Canada by India to improve the education quality and knowledge transmission. On the other hand, Canada government can make efforts to enhance knowledge transfer and translation through ICT by adopting tools like best practices repository, communities of practice, corporate intranet/extranet, corporate yellow pages, expertise locator, online chat/instant messaging, knowledge portals, groupware-workflow and tracking system, and document/content management that are already used in India. ICT has the potential to develop the country politically, socially, and economically.

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INTRODUCTION

India is the seventh largest country in terms of geographic area and is second largest in the world in terms of population. With population of 1,236,344,631 or 1.24 billion India is densely populated. According to its demographics, it is a young nation with 58.3% of the population under 30 years of age. The urban population, as estimated in Census 2011, accounts for 31.3% of the total population that implies majority of the population resides in rural areas. However, the urban population is increasing at the rate of 2.47%. The literacy level is 72.9% and education expenditure by the country is 3.1% of the GDP. The country ranks seventh in terms of nominal GDP (International Monetary Fund, 2016). Initially, India was an agrarian economy as agriculture and allied sector contributed almost 51.9% to the GDP but the focus changed to services. The technological boom or the push in Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in almost all the sectors after liberalization has contributed in GDP as well. ICT is being used in almost all the industries- SMEs, manufacturing, agriculture, health, education, BFSI, infrastructure development, income tax, real estate analytics, disaster management and many more. ICT application has led to the development in many industries, thereby, contributing to the overall economic development of the nation (GOI, 2015).

Canada is the world's second largest country in terms of area with population 34,834,841 which is one-fourth of that of India. Majority of the population (54.5%) lies within the age group of 24-64 years. Approximately, 80.7% of the total population resides in urban areas which are far more as compared to that in India. The literacy level is as high as 99% and education expenditure is 5.4% of GDP which is again higher than India's (Statistics Canada, 2015). However, it ranks tenth in terms of nominal GDP behind India (International Monetary Fund, 2016). In Canada, ICT is applied in various sectors such as education, health, agriculture, research, SMEs, disaster management, tourism etc.

The Indo-Canadian community has been making efforts to bridge the gap in the demographics of the two countries through development in ICT and its application in various industries. It recognized the potential areas where ICT can be used for the development of the overall sector.

The Indo-Canadian bilateral agreement on ICTE was signed in 2013 and was spread over five areas- B2B cooperation, R&D collaboration, E-Governance, cyber security and Investment & Innovation. An MoU on ICT and electronics has already been signed in 2012. Another meeting was held between the delegations from both the countries to discuss the India-Canada ICTE Working and majorly focused on ICT areas like- E-Governance, cloud computing, big data, 4G/LTE technologies, M2M/IoT and cyber/mobile security. Issues like mobility, cyber security, investment,

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