

Attitude of Primary School Teachers towards Information Technology in relation to their effectiveness and self-concept

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Abstract

An empirical research study was carried out in investigating the relationship of teacher effectiveness and self-concept of teachers with their attitude towards IT on the sample of Primary school Teachers located in the urban area of Tehri-Garhwal District of Uttarakhand. It was observed that effectiveness and self- concept put positive and significant influence on Teachers' attitude towards IT.

Today we are experiencing an explosion of information and it's revolution has implied the use of technology and has been named as Information –Technology (IT) . The primary purpose of IT is to solve problems and help people and organizations to attain those heights of the tasks that are being handled using IT which are continuously increasing almost in our daily life. Information-Technology is a unique combination of Technology and Information . The Technology weaves an information through its hardware and software pedagogies . Technology thus makes an easy access to diversify aspects of information with the help of such resources , Viz. T.V. , Computer , E-mail , Internet, teleconferencing and world wide web (Pal, 2001). The inclusion of technology in the process of learning makes learning an enjoyable activity and this is inviting greater interest of the kids. The importance of IT has been accepted in UNESCO world education report of 1998. Mohanty (2003) have remarked that Information –Technology is a novel medium of teaching -learning and in other educational networks too. The use of Information-Technology , even , helps us in sharing knowledge with the larger world and One finds global village concept with its application . As such, the crucial issue of improving the teaching-learning process with the help of Information-Technology has been recognized very widely in the technological society. So it is very natural that now the role of teacher is bound to change. He has to be seriously involved in the use of Information - Technology in the various domains. As such, a teacher acquires the knowledge, understanding and skill to use the devices relating to Information – Technology and also experiences the advantages and disadvantages or problems coming in the way while using IT instruments. This make him able to express his reactions to situations involving IT in the inside and outside the class room. Such type of experiences, creates his interest to use IT and forms his opinion on the goods and bad of Information-Technology. These all things appear in his observable behaviour continuum towards Information-Technology. It frames his degree of attitude towards Information-Technology. His attitude, thus formed, exhibits in the degree of access towards the use of IT- gadgets in his teaching –behaviour with the intention to enhance the learning outcomes of his pupils and simultaneously to make his teaching effective and more influential . The teachers are expected to impart the information on the current issues e.g. population, environment, mass- media etc. to the pupils and to the guardians too. It all necessitates to strengthen the teacher's attitude towards IT. However , there come

many evils or hazards while using IT and his opinion/ views on these experiences also put affect on his attitude towards IT in that concern . With all these perceptions , the investigator views that there is an urgent need of carrying out the research work pertaining to assess the attitude of teachers towards IT at the early stage of education , that is , in the field of primary -education wherein the hardware and software of IT have just been introduced . But these propositions can only be validated by carrying out the empirical – studies. These all events will certainly frame Teachers attitude towards IT and with its consequence his expectations may increase about the use of IT.

In our state, the government machinery is giving more importance to primary schooling . In this context a few research studies are worth to be mentioned :

Sindhu Bala (2001) stressed that through IT, the teachers can be made more effective that will need information of the gadgets IT gadgets in order to upgrade their skills and the subject matter which text books can not do.

Uniyal & Pandey (2008) in their investigation studied teacher's attitude towards computer in relation to sex, age, locality and experience. In conclusion no major difference between male and female teachers on computer education was found.

Flanders and Simon(1969) expressed that teacher- effectiveness is concerned with the characteristics of teachers , teachings aids ,their effect on the education ,outcomes of the class room teaching .

Singh (1990) did his study on, Teacher's effectiveness as related to their attitude towards teaching profession. According to him effective classroom instruction depends upon the attitude of the teacher towards the teaching profession.

Dave P.N.(1985) investigated "the relationship between teacher effectiveness and self-concept". In major findings, the relationship between teacher effectiveness and self-concept was significant and male teachers not differed from female teachers in respect of teacher effectiveness.

Thinking on these lines, the present empirical investigation was proposed, designed and conducted on the primary school teachers. According to some educationist, "Effectiveness" is a standard of performance in a specific work –situation. Only that teacher is considered to be a good and effective that learns to use himself as an effective instrument for his own and society's purpose. Similarly, the self concept is a variable which influence an individual's behaviour in many fold ways. Self- concept provides a motive to work, but it also works as a catalyst in achievements of the life; on the other hand, poor self – concept may intervene one's performance. He may feel that he is not capable of doing it.

Thus, it appears that effectiveness and self-concept are the important variables influencing ones behaviour and attitude. It indicates that there might be a type of relationship between teacher's attitude towards IT, effectiveness and self-concept. This presumption could only be validated through an empirical study. This idea motivated the present investigator to take up the present study by examining teacher's attitude towards IT in relation to teacher's effectiveness and with better and poor self-concept.

Objectives of the Study:

The present study was conducted to full- fill the following objectives –

- 1- To assess the effectiveness of the primary school teachers.
- 2- To measure the self -concept of the primary school teachers.

- 3- To measure the attitude of primary school teachers towards the Information – Technology.
- 4- To compare the attitude of High and low Effective teachers towards IT.
- 5- To compare the attitude towards IT of better and poor self -concept bearing teachers.

Hypotheses:

The following hypotheses were statistically examined in the proposed study :

- 1- There lies no significant difference between the attitude of high effective and low effective teachers towards I.T.
- 2- There exist no significant difference between the attitude of better and poor Self-concept teachers towards I.T.

Research Methodology :

In the present study the current status of Primary school Teachers on their attitude towards IT was to be investigated along with their effectiveness and self concept. This could only be assessed by surveying them and so the normative survey method was employed in data collection work.

Data gathering Tools – The following tools were used :

- a- Scale measuring Attitude towards IT.(Self developed)
- b- Test measuring Teacher’s Self-concept. In this scale 27% of the subjects with the highest scores and 27% of the subjects with the lowest scores were termed as better and poor self concept bearing Teachers.
- c- Teachers Effectiveness Scale.(Standardised tool of Dr.P.Kumar & Prof. D.N.Mutha)

In this scale 27% of the subjects with the highest scores and 27% of the subjects with the lowest scores were termed as high effective and low effective Teachers respectively.

Population and Sample:

The present research study was framed for the Teachers working in the urban area towns: New Tehri , koti colony and Baurari and in it’s vicinity located in District Tehri Garhwal of uttrakhand state of India. There are 40 Primary schools running in the above demarcated urban area and nearly 200 teachers are working in those schools. The Teachers available to the present researcher on the date of data collection work formed the sample of the present study as under:

Male	Female	Total
85	99	184

Data analysis and interpretation :

Categorization of Teachers into better, average and poor digree of effectiveness was performed by taking 27 % above as better effective and 27% below as poor effective and rest were treated as average effective Teachers on their scores on Teacher effectiveness tool. Similarly the Teachers were categorised into better, average and poor degree of self concept. The overall distribution of Teachers was as under :

Charastrictic		High	Average	Poor
Effectiveness	Male	19	43	23
	Female	31	34	34
Self concept	Male	30	30	25
	Female	20	47	32

Testing of Hypothesis no.1

Table No.1

Comparison of High and low Effective teachers on their attitude towards Information Technology in terms of mean, SD & t-value.

Govt. School Teachers	High Effective Teachers			Low Effective Teachers			Diff	t- value	Significance Level
	N	M	SD	N	M	SD	M1-M2		
Male	19	22.95	3.79	23	20.87	2.82	2.08	1.98	.05
Female	31	23.82	3.45	34	21.97	3.98	1.85	2.01	.05

* As per standard table –D of t –values appeared in “statistics in psychology and Education” (H.E. Garrett) Page No. 537 (1996)

In the above table, the attitude of teachers in relation to their effective/ poor effectiveness has been displayed. The obtained data exhibits that the attitude of effective male as well as female teachers towards IT was found better than of poor effective those teachers in terms of mean values and this difference between their attitude towards IT was found to be significant at .05 level. It denotes that more than 95 percent effective teachers possess their better attitude towards IT than to those possessing poor attitude towards IT. It leads to deduce that hypothesis no.1 stands to be rejected.

Testing of Hypothesis no.2

Table No.2

Comparison of Teachers with Better and Poor Self –Concept on their Attitude towards IT in terms of Mean, SD and t-values.

Govt. School Teachers	Better Self-concept Teachers			Poor Self-concept Teachers			Diff	t- value	Significance Level
	N	M	SD	N	M	SD	M1-M2		
Male	30	23.16	2.55	25	21.55	3.16	1.61	2.07	.05
Female	32	23.34	3.83	20	20.38	3.43	2.96	2.91	.01

* As per standard table –D of t –values appeared in “statistics in psychology and Education” (H.E. Garrett) Page No. 537 (1996)

It is clear from the data presented in the above table that-

The male as well as female teachers with better self-concept possessed higher attitude towards IT in comparison to those teachers with poor self-concept in terms of mean value. This degree of difference between their attitude towards IT was estimated to be significant at .05 level in case of male Teachers where as at .01 level in case of female Teachers. It denotes that hypothesis no. 2 could not be accepted. It leads to interpret that among male Teachers 95% with better self concept have better attitude towards IT than to those with poor self concept where as among female Teachers 99% with better self concept have better attitude towards IT than to those with poor self concept.

Conclusion: The above description leads us to draw the following meaningful conclusions:

- a- The high effective male as well as female Teachers possess better degree of attitude towards IT in comparison to low effective those teachers.

- b- The male as well as female Teachers bearing better self-concepts frame their better degree of attitude towards IT in comparison to those Teachers bearing poor self-concept.
- c- The Degree of effectiveness as well as the self- concept of Teachers are positively related with their degree of attitude toward IT.

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