

Chapter 64

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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ABSTRACT

iSchool or I-school or information school is one of the important names in the present age. It is treated as oxygen for several organizations, institutions, and sectors such as health, government, academia, business, and commerce for solid and sophisticated information and technological solution. Owing to the extreme importance of information, several academic units around the world have established information schools (I-schools) on the line of IT schools or B-schools. I-schools are academic units which work for professional and academic solution of information and technologies. Information schools are responsible for providing manpower in the field of information and technologies and computing with the focus of information.

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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 explosion 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;

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