ICT ENABLED INITIATIVES AT SANATAN DHARMA COLLEGE, AMBALA CANTT, HARYANA

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ABSTRACT

"Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."
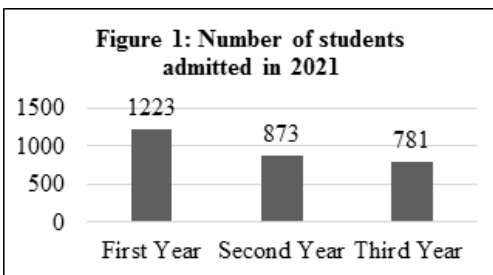
-Arthur C. Clarke

Digitalisation has revolutionised the teaching learning process in Higher Education Institutions. During the pandemic times, the advancements in Information Communication and Technology were of immense help to education sector. Using online video platforms and other communication media, faculty members were able to connect with students even in times of lockdown. Although the digital platforms were already playing a role in Higher Education Sector via SWAYAM Portal, National Digital Library of India, Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC), but the relevance, use and awareness increased tremendously post pandemic. All the sectors of the world are making efforts to adopt to the 'new normal'. Even the Higher Education sector is in a transition phase where ICT tools are being imbibed with conventional teaching learning methods. Realising the important of the same, Sanatan Dharma College, Ambala Cantt. has adopted numerous ICT enabled initiatives for students, faculty members and all the stakeholders of the society.

KEYWORDS: Digital; ICT; Online tools

1. INTRODUCTION

The diversity of learners in respect of their age, skills and personal qualities influences the grasping skills and learning abilities of students. The teaching learning process of an institution needs to be developed in response to the diversity of students. Every year a new batch of students joins an Institution and it is imperative for HEI to cater to the needs of every learner. For this severe planning and its execution is necessary (Chatterjee and Nath, 2015).

Lately, the developments in digital resources of learning have been seen as a solution to this concern. Quality of learning provided in the institution depends largely on teacher readiness to draw upon such recently available technology supports and also the initiative to develop such learning resources to enrich teaching-learning; on teacher's familiarity with Learning Management Systems (LMSs), other e-resources available and how to meaningfully incorporate them in one's scheme of teaching-learning. For enhancing the student learning

Figure 1: Number of students admitted in 2021

Table 1: Number of ICT Equipment's at Sanatan Dharma College, Ambala Cantt.	
Equipment	Number
Desktops	483
Laptops	96
Scanners	22
Printers	36
LCD Projectors	54
Smart Boards	17
WACOM Digital Pen Display	15
Slide Pointers	5
Podiums	15
E-kiosks	2
Screen Display/Television	2
Digital Camera	1
Audio video production room	1

experience, ICT tools play a major role in an institution (Dawson et al, 2010). Figure 1 shows the number of students enrolled in Sanatan Dharma College, Ambala Cantt. in 2021. All the students carry different personal attributes but they join an organisation with one common objective of learning. To cater to the needs to different students, the college focuses on development of technological infrastructure. For meeting the requirements of these students, college has purchased numerous equipment's like desktops, laptops, scanners. printers, LCD Projectors and so on which are shown in table 1.

1. DIGITAL LEARNING PLATFORMS

For development of an institution, rigorous efforts are needed for incorporating ICT in routine working (Mir, 2019). Sanatan Dharam College, Ambala Cantt. has undertaken numerous efforts to imbibe technology into the academics. The initiatives towards digital learning platforms are as listed below:

● **Moodle Learning Management System:**

Established at institute level in March 2020. It is a customized institutional level Learning Management System on which 13,843 users are registered and 2335 courses have been created. The faculty members of the college create courses of their respective subjects on this MOODLE LMS and enrol students of their respective classes in their courses. The faculty members of the college have been trained for creating courses on LMS and they have further guided students on using the platform. Various interactive activities, assignments, quizzes and other activities enable flexible teaching learning process round the clock.

● **College Information Management System (CIMS):**

The college has developed CIMS (College Information Management System), which is an ERP based software developed in consultation with the needs of the stakeholders. Through CIMS students can access their examination results, assignment scores, attendance details and other academic information directly on their computers or mobile phone. Faculty members have the facility to upload details of their activities and duties during the session and then retrieve the same.

- **College Website:**

The college website is updated from time to time in order to provide relevant information to students, parents, faculty members and alumni of the college. All the information pertaining to admissions, examinations, events, committees, cells of the college are available on website. The college website also has a section of important links from where users get redirected to respective websites.

● **Literary support (E-Resources):**

During the pandemic time in 2020, the college made immense efforts to provide students and faculty members with online access to resources. Different publishers like McGraw Hill, Sage Publications, Pearson Education offered many opportunities for providing online access. It was required but the institutions to identify the opportunity and make the best use of it for development of students. In the year 2022, there are approximately 6000 to 8000 users per month of the N-List.

● **KOHA Software:**

College has made provision of KOHA Software to students and faculty members of the college. KOHA Software is a library automation software which enables users to search extensively on the online software for the required books and journals. The Software provides access to detailed catalogue display through which users can easily search the rack number and accession number of the required book.

Table 2: List of E-Resources subscribed by Sanatan Dharma College	
E-Resources	**Details**
N-LIST	It provides access to 6000+ e-journals and 3135000+ e-books.
PEARSON E-LIBRARY	Access of 60 e -books for the subjects of Commerce, Computer, Electronics, Physics, Political Science, Zoology
MCGRAW- HILL	Access of E -books for subjects of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Electronics, Commerce and Computers.
SAGE PUBLICATIONS	26 E-books and access to various SAGE journals
DELNET & OER	DELNET E -Resources/Databases are accessible on College Internet IPs. DELNET is a prominent South Asian resource sharing library network. It has almost 3.5 million catalogue records of books, journals, papers, and other materials. It also gives users access to the Theses and Dissertations Database.
Springer	

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● **Data management Software:**

The Higher Education Institutions of the country are striving hard in order to achieve excellence in shaping the careers of youth of the country. National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Bengaluru assesses the performance of different Higher Educational Institutions on seven different criterions and various Key Indicators. Every HEI leaves no stone unturned for achieved best possible grade from NAAC peer team. NAAC accreditation is a robust process for which the institutions are required to maintain complete documentation related to every activity conducted in the institution. One of the main issues faced by the institutions is accumulation of entire data for different years at a single place. Consequently, a synchronised Data management Software has been designed by the faculty members of Department of Computer Science of the college where all the data and its related records can be kept at one single platform. All the faculty members of the college have the facility to add details on this platform. However, the authority to delete or modify data is available to an admin account only. Such a kind of software will also be helpful while uploading Self-Study Report (SSR) files and while preparing for submission of documents related to AQAR as per proper guidelines.

● **Alumni Connect Cell:**

Alumni Connect Cell of the Sanatan Dharma College, Ambala Cantt. has been developed as a circle where stakeholders will help each other reach goals. This vision for this community is to create an ecosystem of support for all alumni to fulfil their life goals. The goal of this online platform includes making all alumni independent by supporting them through education, building a sense of community and creating interest-based pathways. The alumni of the college can register on this portal to stay connected to the college and their batchmates.

● **Scholarship Portal:**

Every student has a different set of skills but sometimes students are not able to develop their skills due to financial constraints. The economically backward, meritorious, outstanding sportspersons, fatherless girls, outstanding artists of various cultural activities are given an opportunity by college to apply for various kinds of scholarships. The website specially

designed for scholarship provides all type of information related to Government and Private scholarships available for college students. The students are required to fill the forms available on this portal. These forms are scrutinized by a specially constituted committee which identifies the needy students. Thereafter, the list of deserving candidates is displayed on the college notice boards and college website. These students are then interviewed by the Committee members who decide on the waiver percentage of the student.

● **IIT Bombay Spoken Tutorials:**

The college has partnered with IIT Bombay Spoken Tutorials through which students have access to remote learning. The combination of animation and narration simultaneously in IIT Bombay Spoken Tutorials makes learning more effective for students. Faculty members of the college motivate students to learn different software like R, Python, Drupal, Front Accounting, Inkspace etc via IIT Bombay Spoken Tutorials.

● **Google Workspace for Education:**

The products developed by Google have gained lot of momentum in 21st Century. The college subscribed to Google Workspace for Education (formerly known as Gsuite) through which collection of collaborative tools were accessible for faculty members of the college. The benefit of more storage space in Google Drive, Add on in Google Docs, Google Spreadsheets, Google Forms were available to college staff for delivering better content to students. Numerous features related to Google Meet made it convenient for the entire staff to connect with students win a synchronised manner.

● **Cisco Webex:**

The college subscribed for CISCO Webex, a video conferencing platform for conducting online seminars and workshops. Since 2020, College has conducted various sessions on CISCO Webex on the topic Intellectual Property Rights, Entrepreneurship Development, Skill development, career opportunities and research methodology. Many Faculty Development Programmes were conducted on this platform for a larger target audience on E-Content Development tools with participants from across the nation.

● **YouTube channel:**

Created in May 2020, which has more than 3600 subscribers and 140780 views currently. Numerous videos related to different online teaching learning resources, workshops and webinars are available on the channel for all stakeholders of the institution. The webinars and online workshops conducted on online platforms are also streamed live on Official YouTube channel of college. Table 3 shows the different digital learning platforms and its impact on students and faculty members.

Table 3: Digital learning platforms and its impact		
Digital learning Platform	**Link**	**Impact**
Moodle Learning Management System	https://moodle.sdcollegeambala.org/	Access to e-content
College Information Management System	https://sdcollege.gtechinfo.com/	Transparency
College Website	https://www.sdcollegeambala.ac.in/	Accessibility of information
Literary support (E-Resources)	https://nlist.inflibnet.ac.in/veresources.php	Online access to e-books; journals and magazines
YouTube Channel	https://www.youtube.com/c/SanatanDharmaCollegeAmbalaCantt	Easy guidance for using E-content development tools
Data management Software	https://naac.sdcollegeambala.ac.in/site/admin/index.php	Single platform for maintaining data
Alumni Connect Cell	https://alumni.sdcollegeambala.ac.in/	Improved connectivity with alumni PAN India
Scholarship Portal	https://scholarship.sdcollegeambala.ac.in/	Benefit to needy students
KOHA Software	http://library.sdcollegeambala.ac.in/	Online track of library records
IIT Bombay Spoken Tutorials	https://spoken-tutorial.org/	Students have access to short courses related to software development
G Suite	-	Improved online teaching
Cisco Webex	http://sdcollege.webex.com	Enhanced collaboration for online sessions
Source: Self-created		

1. **Cells and committees in college assisting in usage of ICT**

For overall development of students different cells and committees are operating in college. But some special committees have been designed which assist in development of ICT infrastructure of the college. E-Resource Development Cell and Website Upgradation are couple of such committees.

● **E-Resource Development Cell:**

The E-Resource Development Cell was established in year 2016. The main

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objective of ERDC is to host various training programmes to train the Teaching and Non-Teaching staff. The cell supports other institutions in making their faculty capable of developing innovative e-content. It has trained more than 10,000 faculty members in various faculty development programmes. The E-Resource Development Cell has actively organised various Faculty Development Programmes since 2016 in collaboration with Guru Angad Dev Teaching Learning Centre, SGTB Khalsa College, University of Delhi, IIT Bombay Spoken Tutorials, Directorate of Higher Education (DHE) Haryana, mentee colleges under UGC PARAMARSH scheme. During this COVID-19 period, the cell has organised many FDPs and trained more than 10,000 teachers from all over the country. The institute has also organised training programmes for various educational institutions like schools and colleges under institutional social responsibility. The cell has also undertaken training programmes for Moodle Learning Management System and conducts certificate courses on Android Application Development, Working with Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Word, Python, WordPress and many more.

- **Website Upgradation Committee:**

The Website upgradation committee works consistently for providing timely information related to the different events of the college on the college website. Beyond that the entire assessment process is carried out on College Information Management System. Faculty members upload assessment and attendance online. The students have access to view their academic score on this portal. The committee strives hard to continuously develop the process of transparent assessment.

CONCLUSION:

Continuous improvement is a key aspect for achieving excellence in any Higher Education Institution. The outbreak of pandemic is 2020 has left a deep impact on different segments of the society. Considering the education sector, the best lesson a HEI can learn is to adopt to blended mode of learning. When an organisation has suitable infrastructure for supporting blended mode of teaching and learning then certainly it is stepping towards excellence. Resistance might be there in initial phases but gradually it is accepted by all the stakeholders. Understanding the importance of technological developments, Sanatan Dharma College has always strived hard to undertake best possible ICT initiatives in the campus.

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