

Technology at Bundelkhand University.

Bundelkhand region is one of the poorest regions of Uttar Pradesh. Apart from being underdeveloped, the region also is known for dacoity and criminal activities. The challenge for an university in Bundelkhand is battling with cheating in educational system from false grading to fake certificates.

Bundelkhand University has 8 faculties and 167 colleges affiliated to it. There are 26 institutes of higher learning. Before one jumps into the exact technology implementation, it is advisable to appreciate the paradigm shift occurring in education per se. Education has become more student centric and focused on outcome rather than input and curriculum. Educational activities are means to an end rather than being an end. Focus is on qualitative aspect of education rather than quantitative.

Technology Intervention in Bundelkhand University is in following areas:

1. Online Admission System
2. Fees Submission System
3. Examination Management System
4. Digital Evaluation System
5. Result Processing System
6. Financial Accounting System
7. Library Management System

One of the biggest problem being faced by Bundelkhand University was corrupt grading system with marks being awarded for consideration other than correct answers in examination. Hence one of the most important technological interventions at Bundelkhand University is Digital Evaluation System.

Bundelkhand University has implemented TCS iON Digital Evaluation System that results in fewer errors and inconsistencies. Answer books are digitized and evaluation is done over computers. This has not only reduced evaluation time, but also introduced transparency in evaluation and elimination of totalling errors.

However even the present digital evaluation system has its pain areas with faculty having to travel to Jhansi. Hence further improvement in this area is being planned with script being available on tablets. It also includes transfer of marks to examination master. This would make unnecessary travel of faculty to Jhansi.

If corrupt evaluation system is one area that plagues this region the other problem plaguing the university is fake certificates. Bundelkhand University is combating this problem by Degree Demat System, where paper certificates are complemented with

online certificates. This system is also being implemented by TCS. This is very important for maintaining the brand and integrity. While thousands of Demat certificates have been issued, the system is proposed to be universally implemented.

There are other areas where ICT implementation is being proposed such as:

1. Hotel and Mess Management System
2. Course Management Module
3. Course Mapping System
4. Grievance Management System
5. Court Case Management System
6. File Tracking System
7. Right to Information Management System

There are several hurdles and bottlenecks in implementing technology at Bundelkhand University such as:

1. Lack of Manpower
2. Insufficient Funds
3. Poor Connectivity
4. Lack of Training
5. Poor Infrastructure
6. Erratic Power Supply
7. Lack of Bandwidth

Bundelkhand University requires following for ICT implementation:

1. Operational Training Facility
2. Onsite Technical Manpower
3. Datacenter and Mirror Server for Backup
4. Information Centre at each affiliated college
5. In House Solutions for Maintenance and Upgradation.

Implementing technology at Bundelkhand University presents unique challenges; some of them are in common with other universities such as lack of funds or technical manpower; some very unusual such as high degree of corruption in evaluation and provision of certificates.

Every educational institution or University has its own set of problem and pain area. Significant among these are common: finance and accounts, admission system, payroll system. But some could be so unique and unusual that these may not be implemented at most educational institutions.

Bundelkhand University has chosen a wise model of ICT implementation. Instead of implementing standardized ICT, the university has chosen to use technology to combat and contain problems faced by it of corruption in evaluation and issuance of certificates.

Technology is not solution; technology is means to solution. Each educational institution would have to identify the problems faced by it and implement technological solution to resolve those set of problems. Hence technology implementation begins with identification of problems and efforts to find solution to identified problems.

If there is one chief learning from ICT implementation at Bundelkhand University it is this, that educational institutions must not imitate other universities in their ICT implementation. Educational institutions can ill afford to put the cart before the horse in ICT implementation. Search for solution starts with identification of problems.

Just like Bundelkhand University, educational institutions must first identify problems and then start searching for solution. Implementing a solution just because technology is available for it is the wrong way to go about it. It is the horse of problem that draws the cart of solution.