

## **Amchi Mumbai University!!!**

Mumbai University, earlier known as Bombay University, is one of India's oldest Universities. The University was started in 1857 and currently has around 750 colleges affiliated to it.

With old institutions, transition from traditional system to modern technology based system is a challenge.

Mumbai University's ICT best practices can be divided into two sections:

1. E Governance
2. Teaching and Learning

Mumbai University's E Governance System in turn can be sub-divided into:

1. University Administration
2. Student Lifecycle

The University Administration system is collection of several applications. These applications have not been customized out of any ERP package. Instead these applications have been developed by several vendors.

In some sense this kind of application development is diametrically opposite to that of BITS Pilani, which has used a standard off the shelf ERP – Oracle PeopleSoft – and customized its modules.

The University Administration system has applications for:

- a. Finance
- b. Payroll
- c. Stores
- d. Materials Management

The Student Lifecycle includes following ICT systems:

- a. Student Registration : Enrolment
- b. Hall Ticket Generation for Examination
- c. Online Question Paper
- d. On Screen Marking

The Teaching and Learning System includes systems for :

- a. Distance Education Course Material

- b. Open Education Course Material
- c. Video Lectures
- d. Lectures for Information Technology
- e. Flip Classroom Facility

Mumbai University has also implemented Virtual Classroom where live courses can be streamed to various colleges. It also includes facility for video conferencing and online resource pooling. It is proposed to use the Virtual Classroom for conferences, workshops and seminars and other training programs.

There are several challenges in implementing ICT for an old university like Mumbai University. The first challenge is in integrating with an old system. The second challenge is in human resource part.

The biggest challenge in implementing ICT is in educating stakeholders and training them about the advantages of using technology.

There are several challenges on personal level of training the staff and on institutional level in simplifying procedures of procurement.

ICT implementation at Mumbai University may not be one that is impressive, but represents the ICT journey of traditional university finding ways of implementing modern system.

The challenges of integrating traditional systems with new systems are also a learning that cannot be ignored.

Again implementing technology intervention in technology institutions may be easy. However implementing technology in universities with all courses represents immense challenge since the technology adoption may not be that natural.

The biggest challenge is in educating stakeholders and that is not easy in technology institutions – what to say in multidisciplinary institution.

One chief learning from implementation of ICT in Mumbai University is that one takes small steps and does not necessarily try to revolutionize the system. Second is that one needs to spend time in educating stake holders and in training them.

Every university would have its own ICT journey. It is nobody's case that the Mumbai University's ICT implementation is one that is ideal. However it is worth examining, just as it is worth examining ICT implementation of other universities in determining ICT strategy for an educational institution.