

How educational institutions in India are using IT



An interaction with Professor Bharat Bhasker, IIM-L reveals how IT implementation is facilitating education.

IIM -Lucknow

The automation of student registration processes, admissions, placement, accounting systems has been in place at IIM Lucknow for more than a decade. IIM-L students have been running an Intranet portal called Blondie for almost a decade. The Blondie server available on IIM-L intranets integrates many collaborative technologies, for creating, disseminating, and sharing information among the student community. The collaborative services are further augmented by 'Claronline' course management system for managing the learning resources.

The integration of these two services on Intranet platform offers completely seamless connectivity and sharing amongst the faculty and student community. Currently, we are in the process of integrating all our IT solutions for various functions using ERP platform. The other thrust area, is the implementation of virtual classrooms at both of our Lucknow and NOIDA campuses. It is due to the high degree of reliance of IT infrastructure we have been able to scale up to three times increase in PGP intake, multi-fold increase in training and launch of several programs with marginal change in support staff strength .

Vidya Niketan School Bangalore

Vidya Niketan School Bangalore has implemented the Promethean's Active Whiteboards through Almo Digital Signage Solutions. This interactive whiteboard is a large interactive display that combines an interactive whiteboard with the power of a computer and front projection, enabling anything that can be seen or done on a computer screen to be projected onto an interactive whiteboard capturing the interest of the students through images, video and audio, enhancing interaction and retention. The educators utilize Prometheanlearning.com as a resource centre and download and prepare the board for specific teaching modules.

IMT Ghaziabad and XIMB Bhubhaneshwar

IMT Ghaziabad and XIMB Bhubhaneshwar are using NIS L.I.V.E (L.I.V.E. acronym for Learning in Interactive Virtual Environment), a tele-education network, providing interactive tele-education services across the country, to provide executive education programs to working executives who wish to pursue management programs, but being within the comforts of their own city. NIS L.I.V.E is an initiative of NIS Sparta, which uses video conferencing based platform to establish virtual multi-classroom environment with two-way interaction & collaboration among its educators and students. As part of this platform, a live virtual studio environment has been created, which is connected to remote location delivery points (class-rooms) in New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata, and Bhubaneswar. The instructor delivers lectures in a studio that may be located within the respective management institution and the enrolled students attend the sessions at the remote classrooms, enabling them to attend live lectures, interact with the professor and view the content which is being delivered during the session.

ITM Gurgaon

An interaction with Deepak Satyarthi, IT Head, ITM, Gurgaon threw light on how IT is being utilized in facilitating education at ITM.

" Class room teaching at ITM is supported by an e-learning portal called Learning Management Systems (LMS) that aims at providing students with online access to the various course contents using a single access point. The system is interactive with knowledge base of lecture plans, tutorials, assignments, previous year question papers etc. Students are encouraged to visit the web site, prepare themselves before coming to the class for better understanding of complex engineering concepts. It is envisaged that LMS facilitates better learning in a friendly environment. This system is accessible to all students enabling them to conveniently access information related to the different subjects running through the semester. It gives a brief picture of the proceedings for a particular subject. ITM's LMS is based on Moodle, the open source e-learning system which is a free web application that educators can use to create effective online learning sites. One of the most eminent advantages of Moodle is that it facilitates collaborative work and is designed under a social constructivist philosophy. This philosophy allows for a student-centered environment where learners are able to work independently, reflecting on their own work and on the work of other students, while at the same time being connected to a group of learners who can share ideas and reflect on each other's work."

Amity University

An interaction with J.S.Sodhi, AVP-IT, Amity University threw light on how IT is being utilized in facilitating education at Amity.

"We have an intranet portal Amizone, to which every individual student and faculty staff has been given a login id. This portal enables the faculty members, research associates and students to work in a collaborative manner on the same project, thus bringing together various domain stakeholders of same interest. Now it's easy for them to identify whether an intended project has been already being done by peers, or some similar projects have been done. Under a special agreement with Youtube, we have set up Amity University channel on Youtube - Youtube.com/amityuniversity, which allows us to design our own portal, change its look and feel, upload video clips without any time limit, create various playlists etc. Using this channel we are transmitting events, programs and lectures. We are already doing Class Room Recordings and now we want to make Live & Recorded Sessions, and exams available on mobiles also."