Name of the Research Scholar: Kavita Choudhary

Supervisor: Dr. Bharti Sharma

Department: Institute of Advanced Studies in Education, **Department of Teacher Training & Non-formal Education,** Faculty of Education, Jamia Millia Islamia.

Topic of the thesis: Development of ICT Based Module for Enhancing Functional Abilities of Pre-Service Special Educators for Inclusive Classrooms

Abstract

Keywords: Instructional Planning, Learner with Special Needs, Functional Abilities, Inclusive Classrooms, Information and Communication Technology.

"Inclusive education is an ongoing process aimed at offering quality education for all while respecting diversity and the different needs and abilities, characteristics and learning expectations of the students and communities, eliminating all forms of discrimination."(Conclusions and Recommendations of the 48th Session of the International Conference on Education, Geneva, November 2008.)

The present study assumes greater significance and shed light on functional abilities transacted through the courses for teaching children with special needs in inclusive setting. After reviewing, the literature related to the study researcher found that maximum studies conducted abroad and the studies, which are conducted in India, either related to use of ICT in general education, effect of ICT on academic achievement of students in different subjects, utility of ICT in pedagogy in general education. Nevertheless only, few studies carried out in developing the ICT based modules in special education, inclusive education,

training of special educators to use ICT as a teaching medium to explain the various concepts in inclusive setup.

The sample purposively selected. It consisted of 100 Pre-service special educators, 72 In-Service special educators, and 15 Experts (Teacher Educators) working in various institutions of Delhi recognized by Rehabilitation council of India. Further, the sample of pre-service special educators consisted of two intact groups. The controlled group of 10 pre-service special educators and the treatment (experiment group) group of 10 pre-service special educators for the purpose of experimentation. The tools comprises of (1) Pre-Service Special Educators - ICT Awareness Scale, (2) Rating scale cum questionnaire for in-service special educators need assessment, (3) Semi-Structured Interview Schedule to study the views of experts for enhancing functional abilities of Pre-Service special educators in inclusive classrooms through ICT.

The tools of the study were validated by the professionals i.e. teacher educators specialized in the field of inclusive education and reliability was calculated by using Cronbach Alpha. The results were analysed by using SPSS version 21, interpreted. The finding of the study outlines that pre-service and in-service special education teacher's participation in online courses, quizzes, using online tutorials, e-contents, creation of PowerPoint presentation is required. It will encourage teaching learning practice & will maximize the potential of pre-service and in-service special educators to use ICT to enhance their functional abilities. Sessions can be organized for them to educate them how to use open source networking, e-libraries besides providing them platform to do video conferencing, assisting them to solve their queries related to dealing with learner with special needs. The educational implications of the study mentioned briefly. The study concluded with the suggestions and recommendations for further studies.