

# Integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) into the Education System of Yemen: The Need of the Hour

By

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## Abstract

*During the twentieth century, the world underwent a great transformation from being an agricultural society where natural labour was a critical factor, to being an industrial one where management of technology, capital and labour provided a competitive advantage. In the ensuing 21<sup>st</sup> century, however, a new society is emerging where knowledge is the primary production resource. The contemporary society is inevitably and irrevocably a knowledge-based unit where knowledge is closely supported and followed by technology: mainly, Information and Communication Technology (ICT). It therefore, becomes a prerogative of education to provide educators and others with the much-needed basic ICT proficiency. This underlines the need for restructuring the education system in such a way so as to equip it to prepare people to competently man positions in business, services and other sectors, effectively and efficiently. There seems, therefore, a strong and urgent need for an increased awareness of the benefits of integration of ICT into the education system on the part of policy-makers in Yemen. During the last three decades, there have been revolutionary changes in the realm of Information Technology as a result of the convergence of computer, telecommunication and industrial technologies which have been tremendously affected by the communication technology and processes, besides being impacted by the phenomenon of globalization. Here steps in education with its significantly supportive role of preparing a workforce with an effective ITC capability and efficient language proficiency that aims at enabling the masses in upgrading the comprehension and integration of skills that are indispensable in competing in the world economy. This paper discusses the need for integrating ICT in the said emerging context. Furthermore, it also throws a flood of light on the challenges and opportunities of implementing the above mentioned pointers as a planned process. This paper is, therefore, an attempt to put forth a few suggestions that are likely to help in promoting an enhanced use of ICT in the education system. The researcher hopes that this paper would help the policy makers in framing some valuable education plans for schools, colleges and universities that would not only help in integrating ICT into the curricula but also facilitate in generating a workforce well equipped with communication and other skills, besides being reinforced with the back-up of ICT as a competitive advantage. The researcher strongly believes that a teaching-learning experience coupled with ICT would definitely go a long way in equipping the high school children with the requisite knowledge and experience required to compete and flourish in this highly competitive world.*

**Keywords:** *Challenges; Education system; ICT in Yemen; IT; PPT; CALL; CD ROM; ; interactive blackboards, ELT; CVD; DVD; LCD; interactive blackboards.*