

What is an ICT Lab for Schools? – Then & Now

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Get to know what is an ICT Lab & how implementing ICT Lab in schools can be an opportunity for students and teachers to improve educational outcomes

ICT Lab | Tablet based learning Education in India

Talking about Edtech innovations, one of the popular searches is ICT lab meaning, so let us first start with

What is ICT Lab?

ICT stands for Information and Communication Technology and was first introduced in India in 2004. The education department then revised the ICT policy in 2010 to allow secondary students to learn with a blend of technology in the classroom. The Ministry of Education has revised the policy again, which we will discuss later in the blog.

Key Takeaways

- ICT (Information and Communication Technology) was first introduced in Indian schools in 2004, with the policy revised in 2010 to introduce blended technology learning for secondary students.
- Conventional ICT Labs relied on complex, wired hardware such as desktop computers, projectors, display screens, and sound systems. These setups proved difficult for government school teachers to maintain.
- The Ministry of Education found conventional ICT labs had not produced significant learning gains, partly because complex hardware raised maintenance costs and was hard for many teachers to manage.
- In March 2019, the Ministry of Education introduced a revised ICT Lab Scheme based on tablets, laptops, notebooks, and a charging rack, replacing the older wired computer-lab model.
- The revised ICT lab model aligns with how teachers and students already use smartphones, making devices easier to adopt and maintain than desktop-based labs.

Here's where it all began: Genesis of ICT Lab

The Beginning

The foremost responsibility of schools and teachers is to ensure student's engagement in learning to acquire growth skills and achieve something meaningful in their lives. Therefore, the constant effort of the people in the education ecosystem is to derive ways to make learning interactive and engaging for students.

Over the years, technology in classrooms has been introduced to build students' genuine interest in

studying through visuals, sound effects, and animations. Let us see the ICT Lab then and now.

The early forms of ICT Labs in schools:

Conventional ICT Lab Model

For almost two decades, the way ICT Labs have been set up in schools has mostly been the same. Here is a list of equipment that is typically used:

1. A desktop monitor or desktop with a processor, keyboard, and mouse
2. Projector
3. A display screen
4. Sound system
5. And a lot of wires to interlink all the equipments together

ICT Lab in Schools NOW:

TABLAB: ICT Lab Model in one of the Army Goodwill Schools in Behibag, Kashmir.

As we have mentioned above, the Ministry of Education has recently revised the policy.

Let's find out why?

The revision is done because it has been found that the ICT labs are interlinked with complex computing hardware & has not resulted in any significant change in student learning. The learning gaps still exist because it is difficult for government teachers to manage conventional ICT setup. Further, the non-usage of these labs has resulted in nothing but increased maintenance costs.

Hence, in March 2019, the ministry of education made provision and introduced a new form of technology for the classrooms. Under this, tablets, laptops, notebooks, and a charging rack, are a significant part of the revised ICT Lab Scheme. The teachers and students now have more easy-to-use solutions that naturally align with their psychology of using smartphones.

Policy document released by Ministry of Education to revamp government schools with ICT Lab Model

At iDream Education, we have been working on researching and finetuning the design of ICT Labs in schools to

1. Make the hardware implementation, usage & maintenance very easy
2. To build a proactive interest in students to learn and provide them with a personalised platform to learn at their own pace
3. To empower teachers to teach through digital teaching solution that aligns with their natural psychology of using technical devices,

TABLAB is one way of setting up a Tablet-based Smart ICT Lab consisting of a certain number of tablets, storage, and a charging rack. It is a digital library designed to eliminate the infrastructural and psychological barrier that limits the use of technology in schools. It comprises android tablets with accessories and a tablet charging trolley, which is also used as a storage rack. Every tablet has an SD Card preloaded with customised digital content in Hindi, English & other local languages aligned as per CBSE and all major state boards. All the devices record student-wise reports, save them

offline, and sync them periodically to an online reporting dashboard. This is for anytime, anywhere impact assessment.

Did you know?

Using the same Setup, multiple labs can be created in the same setup.

Learn more about:

English Language Lab

Math Lab

STEM and Tinkering Lab

To know more about the advantages of ICT Lab with learning tablets or tablet based learning with K12 LMS, and the challenges of the implementation of the old ICT Lab, and how the government is overcoming these challenges, please do read our more detailed blog on this link.

If you would like to know more about TabLab or more ICT solutions under Samagra Shiksha, you may contact us at +91 7678265039. You can also write to us at share@idreameducation.org or share your details here.

idreameducation.org

TabLab | Tablet based ICT Lab for Schools | Tab Lab

TabLab is the most effective way to use tablets in schools. It is a digital library that integrates learning tablets and an auto charging rack to charge tablets and multimedia digital content for schools.