

## **CONSTRAINTS FACED BY THE EXTENSION PERSONNEL WHILE USING ICT TOOLS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Constraints refers to the problems and difficulties experienced by the extension personnel in using ICT tools or State of being checked, restricted or compelled to avoid or perform some action. The use of Internet by extension personnel is now common in India. Extension personnel use the Internet for social, research and educational purposes. This study focused on exploring constraints faced by extension personnel about ICT tools The data were collected from 110 extension personnel through a paper-based questionnaire. The results identified the general problems faced by the MSDA extension personnel were 'internet connection is poor/slow' (59.09%), 'lack of proper training facility' (38.18%), lack of knowledge (30.90%), insufficient power supply' (30.00%) and 'inadequate computer facility' (22.73%).' Physiological problems faced by the MSDA extension personnel were; 'eye pain' (36.36%), 'hand pain' (34.55%), 'back pain' (22.13%). Social Problems encountered by MSDA extension personnel were decrease in frequency of 'time spent with children's (63.63%), 'conversation with parents' (59.09%), 'time spent in social events or gathering outside home' (39.09%). Economical Problems faced by MSDA extension personnel like 'low income' (79.09%), 'high cost' (70.00%) and 'cost of data pack' (66.36%). Technological Problems faced by MSDA extension personnel like insufficient information to use (69.09%) and age factor (36.36%).*

**KEYWORDS:** Internet, ICT tool, Extension Personnel, MSDA and constraints

### **INTRODUCTION**

ICT is one of the most important and challenging field in today's world. In recent years there is a visible shift from the old ways of delivering information to the modern ways of information delivery systems. ICT is rapidly gaining the central focal point for future world economic growth and development. While ICT is gaining prominence as an engine for economic growth. It also promises to have far reaching potential for the delivery of social services, enhancing the effectiveness of government administration. Large scale investments are being made to enhance the potential of the ICT sector in India. Such investments would prove most cost effective if the resources of the IT sector are blended with that of the agricultural sector in India there by making the two ends of the thread meet.

Extension personnel who are the direct link between farmers and other actors in the agricultural knowledge and information system (AKIS), are well positioned to make use of ICT to access expert knowledge or other types of information that could facilitate the accomplishment of their routine activities. Aside from the numerous benefits of this now ubiquitous technological tool, the problem of over use.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The present study was conducted in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra state. Ahmednagar district was selected as it has largest area among the districts of Maharashtra state. In Ahmednagar district there are 14 tahsils. Among which these four tahsils namely Rahuri, Sangamner, Shrirampur and Rahata were randomly selected for present study. Ex-post facto design was used for the study. Out of 188 personnel working in different tahsils by using the proportionate sampling method a Agri. officer, 15 Agri. Supervisor, 86 Agri. Assistant were selected by making a total sample size of 110 respondents.

### **OBJECTIVE**

To study the constraints faced by extension personnel while using ICT tools

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The information pertaining to the problem or constraints faced by the extension personnel in the usage of ICT tools is presented in Table 1.

Table 1 : Constraints while using ICT tools by the extension personnel

n=110

Sr. No.	Categories	YES		NO	
		No.	Percent	No.	Percent
<b>(I)</b>	<b>Material problems</b>				
1	Inadequate computer facility	25	22.73	85	77.27
2	Lack of proper training facility	42	38.18	68	61.81
3	Insufficient power supply	33	30	77	70
4	Internet connection is poor/ slow	65	59.09	45	40.90
5	Lack of knowledge	34	30.90	76	69.09
<b>(II)</b>	<b>Physiological Problems</b>				
1	Eye pain	40	36.36	70	63.63
2	Back ache	25	22.13	85	77.27
3	Head ache	16	14.55	94	85.45
4	Hand pain	38	34.55	72	65.45
<b>(III)</b>	<b>Social Problems</b>				
1	Visit to relative house	32	29.09	78	70.91
2	Time spent in social events or gathering outside home	43	39.09	67	60.90
3	Time spent with children's	70	63.63	40	36.36
4	Conversation with parents	65	59.09	45	40.90
<b>(IV)</b>	<b>Economical problem</b>				
1	High cost	77	70	33	30.00
2	Low income	87	79.09	23	20.90
3	Cost of data pack	73	66.36	37	33.64
<b>(V)</b>	<b>Technological</b>				
1	Age factor	40	36.36	70	63.63
2	Insufficient information to use	76	69.09	34	30.90

Table 1 indicated that the problems faced in using ICT tools by MSDA extension personnel. The material problems faced by MSDA extension personnel were 'internet connection is poor/slow' (59.09%), 'lack of proper training facility' (38.18%), lack of knowledge (30.90%), insufficient power supply' (30.00%) and 'inadequate computer facility' (22.73%'. With respect to physiological problems faced by the MSDA extension personnel in using ICT tools were; 'eye pain' (36.36%), 'hand pain' (34.55%), 'back pain' (22.13%) and 'headache' (14.55%).

With respect to of social problems MSDA extension personnel expressed decreased in the frequency of 'time spent with children's (63.63%), 'conversation with parents' (59.09%), 'time spent in social events or gathering outside

home'(39.09%) and followed by, 'visit to relative house' (29.09%).

With respect to economical problems MSDA extension personnel faced the problems like 'low income' (79.09%), 'high cost' (70.00%) and 'cost of data pack' (66.36%).

Whereas, in case of technological problems MSDA extension personnel faced the problems like insufficient information to use (69.09%) and age factor (36.36%).

The possible reason behind this may be that like the two sides of coin, each and everything has benefits as well as constraints. Constraint is nothing but anything which tends to prevent or obstruct the achievement of an objective.

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It is beyond any doubt that Information and Communication Technology is the gift of science. Along with all the advantages, there are certain problems, which the user faces in his or her day to day life. As extension personnel engaged in their relevant jobs so they hardly get time to mingle with social activities and friends or relatives. Long-time use of the ICT tools also creates physiological problems for them.

### **CONCLUSION**

More than half of the MSDA extension personnel faced the general problems was 'internet connection is poor/slow'. More than one fourth of the MSDA extension personnel faced physiological Problems was 'eye pain'. More than half of the MSDA extension personnel faced the social problems 'time spent with children's. More three fourth of the MSDA extension personnel faced the economical problems like 'low income'. More than half of the MSDA extension personnel faced the technological problems like insufficient information to use ICT tools.

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