

E-Pustakalaya – A Digital Library

Integrating Digital Materials to Enhance Classroom Teaching-Learning

Use of ICT in Rural Nepal: National Conference on Technology Influence
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Content

- Technology in Education
- Introduction to E-Pustakalaya
- E-Pustakalaya structure
- Benefits and Challenges
- Future Plans
- Demo

Technology and Education

- A perfect match?
 - Information → Knowledge
 - Communication network → Access
 - Connectivity → Collaboration
- Mixed results
 - No clear proof of improved learning
 - Test scores do not always improve
 - Emphasis on digital skills at the expense of math, reading and writing fundamentals

Key Points to Success

- Technology presents limitless possibilities
 - Sophisticated solutions
 - Easy to get carried away
- Need to keep it SIMPLE
- Focus on EDUCATION, with technology as enabler
 - Stick to the basics of learning
- Understand the CONTEXT
- Set a GOAL and stick to it
- Be realistic about RESOURCES
 - Both human and technology

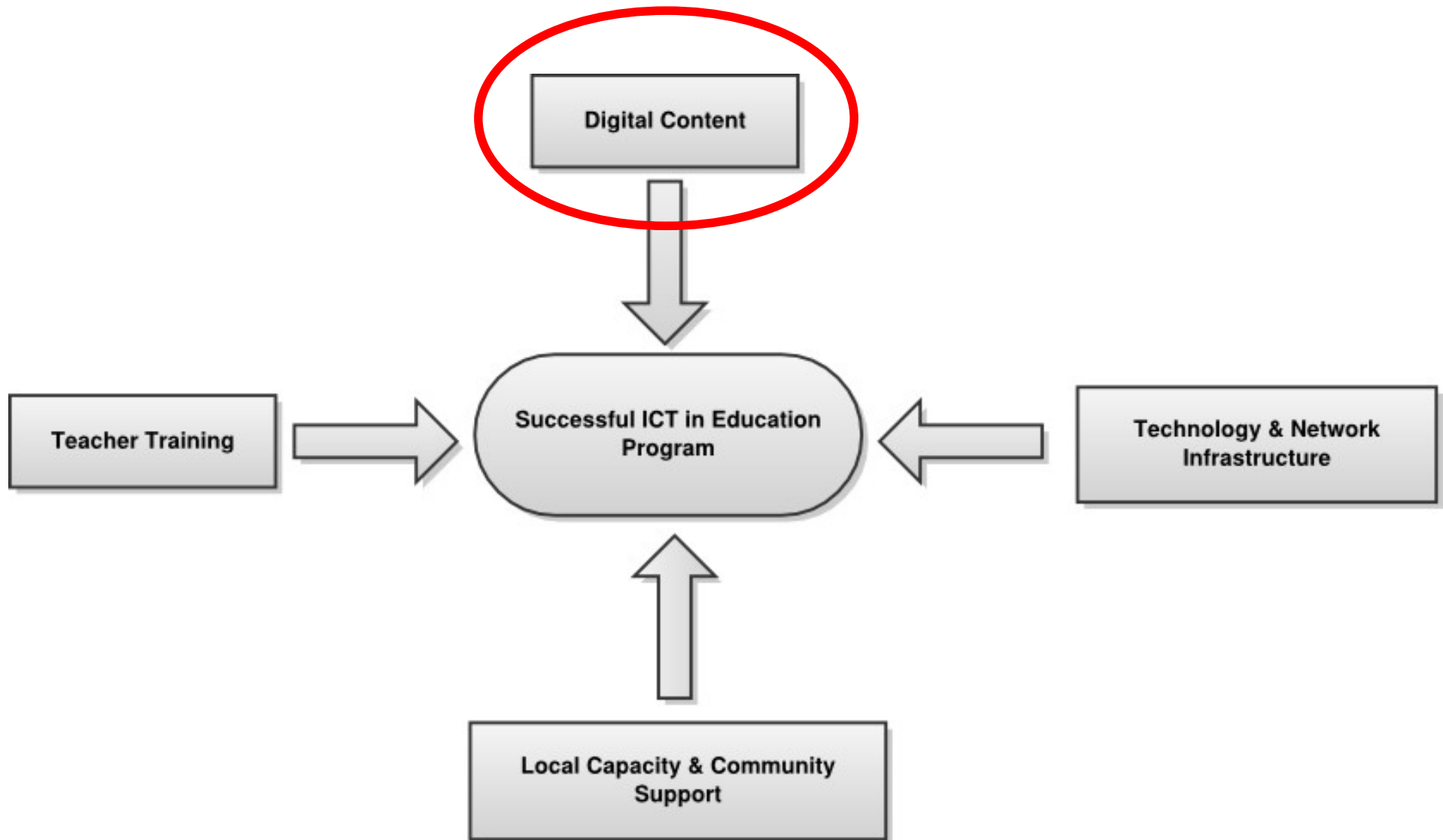
Use of Technology in Education

- School management and administration
- Monitoring and support
- Teacher professional development and capacity building
- Classroom teaching and learning

Why Technology in Education?

- Interactive learning platform with multimedia
- Personalized approach
- Availability of wide range of learning materials
- Engage, Explore, Experiment, Express
- Creative thinking
- Learner-centered tools
- Ease of localization
- Fun and effective
- Growing affordability and accessibility

OLE Nepal's Model



E-Pustakalaya

- Education-centered digital library
- Contains
 - Books
 - Audio books
 - Educational videos
 - Learning software
 - School Wikipedia
 - Dictionary
 - Maps & Atlases
- Materials under creative commons licensing
- Supported by Nepal Library Foundation

E-Pustakalaya structure

- Simple and easy interface
- Seven categories
 - Literature
 - Arts
 - Course materials
 - Reference materials
 - Other educational materials
 - Teaching materials
 - Newspaper and magazines
- Browse, Search, Link facilities
- Can read and/or download books, watch videos, play educational games, etc for free

Goals of E-Pustakalaya

- Promote reading culture in Nepal
 - By increasing access to books and other learning materials through the use of technology
- Encourage students to carry out independent research and inquiry
- Provide the tools necessary for students to explore and learn
- Make teaching-learning fun and effective through the use of materials outside of prescribed textbooks
- Provide service to the surrounding communities through information on health, agriculture, climate

Benefits of E-Pustakalaya

- Provides easy access to thousands of books and learning materials
 - And cheaper too!
- No limit on the number of users who can read the same book
- Can access on the Internet or can be installed locally in schools and community libraries in low-cost low-power servers
- Requires low maintenance

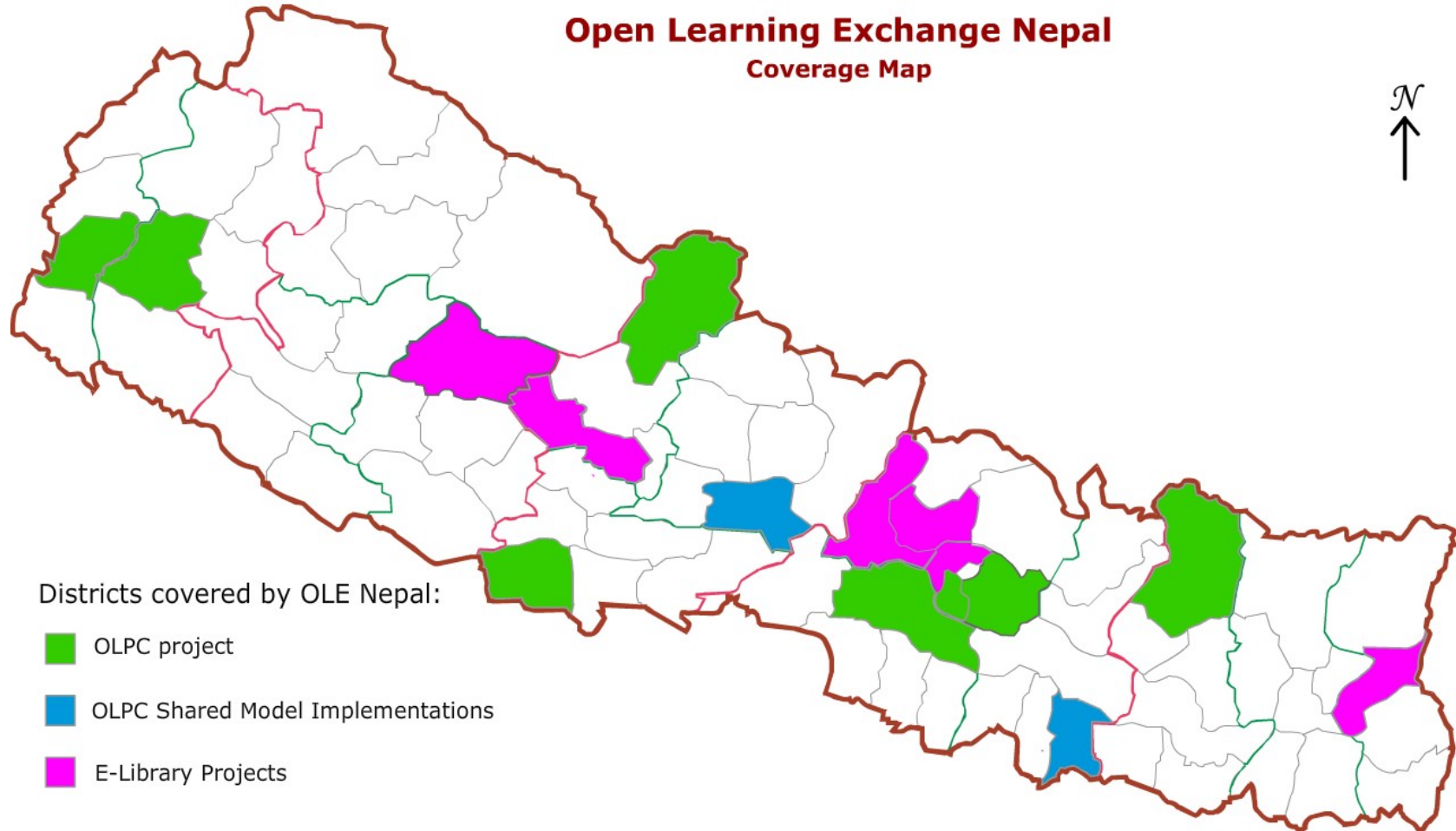
Current Status - Content

- Over 3000 books and other learning materials
- Partnership with various authors, publishers and organizations
 - Room to Read, Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya, Nepalese Society for Children's Literature (NESCHIL), World Education, Rato Bangla Kitab, British Council, E-Learning for Kids
- 450 E-Paath learning activities
 - Curriculum-based learning software for grades two to six English, Nepali, math and science subjects
 - Prepared by OLE Nepal and Dept of Education

Current Status – Content

- British Council's Learn English Kids
- E-Learning for Kids
- Khan Academy videos
- Nepal Academy's Brihat Nepali Sabdakosh
- MPP's Nepali dictionary

Current Status - Reach



What Users are saying

- Four Local Heroes.
 - Mr. Gokul Prasad Aryal
 - Laxmi Ni Ma Vi, Makwanpur
 - Mr. Laxmi Kanta Mishra
 - Siddha Beni Ni Ma Vi, Tanahun
 - Ms. Sangyani Thapa
 - Navin Pra Vi, Kavre
 - Ms. Sujata Regmi
 - Pancha Ni Ma Vi, Kapilvastu
- Many others out there
 - Who are utilizing the materials

Challenges

- Mostly non-technical
- Acquiring content
- Organizing content
- Motivating teachers
 - We are asking a lot from schools and teachers
 - Not only shift in mode of teaching-learning but a paradigm shift

Future Plan for E-Pustakalaya

- Content
 - Increase collection
 - Identify and include relevant content that are in demand
 - Create content where needed
 - Generate local content
- Expand Reach
 - Include in ICT plan
 - Partnerships

Future Plans for E-Pustakalaya

- Integrate in classroom teaching
 - Teacher training
 - Prepare teacher guides
 - Promote reading culture
 - School and community-based approaches
 - Offer as integral part of national ICT-based education initiative

Demo

E-Pustakalaya
E-Paath

Lessons based on E-Pustakalaya