

## **CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING GENERAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN THE G.C.E (A/L) CURRICULUM**

V. Lindakumbura\*, S. D. K Wijesundara

Department of Education, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

*\*lindakumbura@gmail.com*

This study attempts to understand the implementation of General Information Technology (GIT) in the G.C.E. A/L Curriculum. The specific objective of the study was to understand the challenges in the implementation of GIT in schools. The qualitative case study design was used in this study. Two schools in Kandy were selected using purposive sampling as GIT is taught in the two schools and they are in an area where there is easy access to computer learning centres. Data was collected using questionnaires, semi-structured interviews, and documents. The framework postulated by Fullan: interactive factors affecting implementation was used to analyze data. The following themes emerged in the analysis of challenges in the GIT implementation namely, contradictions with student needs, lack of awareness of the goals of GIT, weaknesses in teacher professional development programmes, failure to provide sufficient facilities to implement GIT, low enthusiasm of students and teachers, weak school administration, teacher's readiness for implementation of GIT, external support for the student and the negative attitudes of the community. The other factor which seems to affect implementation of GIT in schools was poor monitoring system of government and local bodies. Moreover, inadequacy of in-house resources available in the school at present, difficulties in finding financial resources for maintenance, difficulties in getting technical support emerged as the interacting factors which militate against implementation of GIT in schools. The above themes evidenced the interactive factors informed by Fullan: namely, characteristics of change, local characteristics and external factors. The main reason for the weak implementation of GIT appears to be the characteristics of change such as poor in-house resources, and the mismatch between the needs and goals of GIT. Furthermore, local characteristics such as negative attitudes of the school community and readiness of the teachers are other challenges faced by GIT teachers. External factors such as poor monitoring system by the Ministry of Education and Zonal office have become a challenge in implementing GIT in schools. Due to the above reasons both teachers and students were less enthusiastic in the implementation of GIT. The remedies that could be put in place to ensure successful implementation of GIT are: providing required resources, revising the syllabus to fulfill students' needs, invigorating the training of teachers to teach GIT, making the subject compulsory, issuing a nationally recognized certificate and having a proper monitoring system.

**Keywords:** General Information Technology, Information and Communication technology, Curriculum