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If India has to surpass the 10% growth mark then it has to realize the role of IT industry in making the infrastructure grow. One of the things required for sustained growth is human infrastructure; we have always maintained that we lack infrastructure sadly by this we mean the physical infrastructure and not the knowledge infrastructure. The Right to Education bill (when it gets passed in the Parliament) will put around 300 mn children in school, and if all go to school we will run short of teachers. The role of ICT in bridging the teacher-student ratio is critical. In terms of high education too, we have a 12.4% growth enrolment ratio and if we want it to be increased to 30%, then we will need 70-80 thousand colleges and would need to set up innovation centers. ICT will help us in delivering excellence, expansion (of faculty), and to make India a knowledge network.

On the skill development front, we want 500 mn skilled Indians, how will this happen if we do not have the institutes. ICT can supplement the lack of trainers, by making sure that there are simulated labs in the common infrastructure and also provide translation infrastructure.

The 3 priorities for education are—on the inclusive education front, ICT can enable reach the unreachable at a fraction of resources; help in expansion as even now we need more universities and skill development institutions; and delivering excellence by going from product based economy to knowledge based economy.

