

**ABSTRACT**  
**PARALLEL WORKING SESSION**

**OUTREACH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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**A Case Study of Educational Innovations at BITS, Pilani (India)  
through use of ICT**

***Work-Integrated Programs:***

The work-integrated educational programs offered by BITS, Pilani for the continuing education of employed professionals in industries deploy ICT both in synchronous and asynchronous modes. Synchronous instructions through Internet based video conferencing enable effective interaction between students and faculty. Asynchronous instruction including on demand lectures and electronic mail through list servers, is more flexible as it accommodates multiple learning levels and schedule. Degree programs in Software Engineering have been offered to a range of industries in India. These industries include Wipro Technologies, Patni Computers, Tech Mahindra, Satyam Computers, SAP Labs, Yahoo, Cognizant Technology Solutions, etc. The program has served in the upgradation of the knowledge base of the employed professionals in these companies. Wherever technology has been used in the conduct of courses it has been appreciated by the organizations and also by the candidates. The faculty member available on site acts as a mentor to the candidates and establishes a liaison with the organizations for an effective conduct of the program. The performance evaluation of the candidate follows multiple strategies such as a mid-semester examination, assignments from the work profile of the candidate, a comprehensive examination and finally a defence of the project/thesis at the campus of the Institute before a peer panel. In case the candidate is located outside the country on a client site or is not able to travel to Pilani, the defense of the project/thesis is organized through the technology where the examiners are in Pilani and the candidate presents his work from his site. The paper describes the special features of the nature of program, the technology used to deliver lectures and also the feedback from the candidates.

***Project Embryo:***

BITS has also used the ICT for its on-campus students through the "Project Embryo". In this project the alumni of the Institute who are in high positions mostly in USA and are working in leading organizations as executives or as faculty in reputed universities or are engaged in entrepreneurship activities, deliver lectures to the students of BITS in Pilani campus and Goa campus from their own work places and these interactive lectures are received live on the campuses thereby enabling the students access the latest knowledge in their fields of studies. Starting in 2006-07 about 80 such lectures have already been delivered by eminent speakers in various areas of Science, Technology and Entrepreneurship.