



TEACHING AND LEARNING OF ENGLISH THROUGH ICT: A REVIEW

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ABSTRACT



The term ICT (Information and Communication Technology) refers to the employment of technological devices in teaching-learning process of English. Technology plays a vital role in teaching and learning of English. ICT covers any communication device or application, including television, radio, cellular phone, computer, network, hardware and software, satellite systems as well as the different services and applications related to them. The tools of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) are being employed as effective modern teaching aids.

ICT provides online interaction facility also. Students and teachers can exchange their ideas and views, and get clarification on any topic from different experts and practitioners. On INTERNET many websites are available freely which may be utilized by teachers and students for understanding different concepts, improving vocabulary, developing Reasoning and Thinking, and so on.

This paper proposes to examine the role of multimedia technology in English Teaching and Learning process. It is essential for language teachers to be aware of the latest and best equipment of technology to give more effective presentations or lectures.

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INTRODUCTION

The traditional way of Teaching-Learning of English has become a myth. It has been replaced with Information and Communication Technology. Technology play vital role in imparting knowledge in various disciplines besides teaching and learning of English. Electronic devices such as radio, television, computers, internet, electronic dictionary, e-mail, blogs, Power Point Presentations, videos, etc. involve in learners' engagement in language acquisition. This can be achieved by utilizing ICT tools in ELT which comprises of communication devices as well as newer digital technologies such as overhead projectors, interactive boards, i-pads, blogs, e-mails, video conferencing and many more.

The 21st century teachers integrate technology into their classroom and build the confidence among the students to learn how to use technology. Traditional methods of teaching are proving to be useful, but the need of the day is to equip people with proficiency in the English language. This is possible only with a proper blend of edification and e-learning tools (modern technologies). However, there are many more opportunities for students to gain confidence practice and extend themselves. Two key concepts of the learner centered classroom are first, placing more responsibility in the hands of the students to manage their own learning, and second, teachers taking roles as facilitators of knowledge to help learners learn how to learn rather than being the source of knowledge. E-learning is a diverse range of technological tools and systems that can be utilized by capable and creative teachers to enhance teaching and learning situations. These are used to make learning more interesting, motivating, stimulating and meaningful to the students. Networking of computers gave way to Information Technology (IT) which leads to development of Websites. Public sector, corporate sector, educational institutions and many organizations started uploading the information on their websites. It provides facilities for chatting, e-mail, surfing, etc. It opens up a new source of information which increased the limitation of access to information.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

The term ICT (Information and Communication Technology) refers to the utilization of technological devices in teaching-learning process. ICT covers any communication device or application, including television, radio, cellular phone, computer, network, hardware and software, satellite systems as well as the different services and applications related to them.

The ICT has opened new avenues like online learning, e-learning, e-coaching, e-education, e-journal, etc. Third and Fourth Generation Mobiles are also part of ICT. Mobile is being used in imparting information fast and cost effective. It provides e-mail facility also. One can access it anywhere. The ICT brings more rich material in the classrooms and libraries for the teachers and students. It has provided opportunity for the learner to use maximum senses to get the information. It has broken the monotony and provided variety in the teaching- learning situation. The ICT being latest, it can be used both at school and higher education levels.

Digitalization of many ICTs has made it possible to design, develop, manage and assess the teaching-learning process. ICT is more effective in teaching-learning English. It enhances interactive teaching and learning styles. It also extends learners' ability to exercise choice, work independently and make connections between their work in English and in other subjects. For example, ICT can help learners:

- see texts in alternative versions of audio-visual form
- sort text and data experimentally, using combinations of word, image, sound and hypertext
- save, record, edit and adapt their work quickly and efficiently
- retain evidence of the editing process so that it can be examined
- change the organizational structure and qualities of texts to suit different purposes
- select from a wider range of audiences, throughout the world

**USE OF ICT IN TEACHING-LEARNING OF ENGLISH**

With the present infrastructure, class size, availability of teachers, quality of teachers, training of teachers, etc., it is difficult to achieve the desired results in quality of teaching-learning of English. Most of the teachers use lecture method. However, the students are more inclined towards ICT method of teaching-learning of English.

The ICT provides online interaction facility. Students and teachers can exchange their ideas and views, and get clarification on any topic from different experts, practitioners, etc. It helps learners to broaden the information base. ICT provides variety in the presentation of content which helps learners in concentration, better understanding, and long retention of information which is not possible otherwise. The learners can get opportunity to work on any live project with learners and experts from other countries. The super highway and cyber space also help in qualitative improvement of Teaching - Learning Process. ICT provides flexibility to a learner which is denied by the traditional process and method.

On INTERNET many websites are available freely which may be utilized by teachers and students for understanding different concepts, improving vocabulary, developing Reasoning & Thinking, etc. ICT can help in preparing students for SAT, GRE, TOEFL, etc. The following are some of the useful resource websites for teaching-learning of English through ICT.

1. http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learnin_english
2. http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/teachin_english
3. <http://www.eslcafe.com>
4. <http://www.a4esl.org>
5. <http://www.5minuteenglish.com>
6. www.englishpage.com
7. www.sitesforteachers.com
8. www.english-forum.com
9. <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/internet-grammar>
10. <http://www.eslessons.com>

USE OF ICT IN REMEDIAL TEACHING

The Remedial Teaching can be done by the teacher if some common mistakes are identified. It

may not be feasible to organize Remedial programme for individual students. At this point, the ICT can be used for giving individual Remedial Programme. It may be Online or off line. The instructional material if designed specifically for meeting the individual needs of students and uploaded on the school or college website and then the ICT can be used for providing Remedial Teaching Programme.

USE OF ICT IN ONLINE TUTORING

The digital technology has broken the boundaries between countries. Human beings do not feel any type of restriction in communicating with people all over the globe. The access has become easier. All students do not understand all subjects to the same extent. Some students find subjects, like, Mathematics, Physics, English, Chemistry, Accountancy, etc. difficult. Many educational institutions do have well equipped laboratories and qualified & competent Faculty. Consequently students do feel the need of academic support out of the school. Therefore, students go for tuition. These days students from the USA & other countries are enrolled in private tuition classes in India. That is they are being taught Online. This has become possible only through ICT. In Online tutoring the student stays at his home. He logs into his tutor through the use of Internet and software. He can see the teacher who is in India and the teacher can see the student who is in the USA. The student asks the question and teacher replies it by writing on soft board or using power point presentation. This interaction is normally one to one. It has made the academic life of many students easy. This is how the manpower available in India can be made use of other countries.

USE OF ICT IN DEVELOPING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL

At present there is a shortage of qualified and competent teachers in all most all subjects at all levels. The instructional material available in the print form is also not of quality. The book reading is not very enjoyable and does not help students in understanding the concepts and retaining the information. There are many teachers who are well known for the specific subject. Their lectures should be digitalized and made available to all the users. It will enhance the quality of instruction in the classrooms. The teacher can use them in the



classrooms and can organize discussion after it wherein the new points can be added both by the teacher as well as students. It will make the teaching effective, participatory and enjoyable. Sansanwal (2006) has developed digitalized lectures on Research Methodology and Statistics and has used it for teaching this subject at master's level. Other researchers are also using it. However, digitalized lectures will have their limitations of revision and inbuilt interaction. These lectures can be uploaded on any website and students or teachers can access any lecture they like. Another form of digitalized lectures is e – content. Efforts are being made to develop e – content material in different subjects for the benefit of diverse users. The competent teachers can develop e – content in their own areas of specialization. This has lots of potentiality to bring quality in teacher education. The ICT can be used in developing Instructional Material and e-Content.

CONCLUSION

Learning Communication Skills in English is always a challenge for non-native English students. Technological innovations have gone hand -in- hand with the growth of English and are changing the way in which we communicate. The ICT is a boon to the English teachers across the world. It makes the teacher as a good facilitator. He/she demonstrates the text or skills of language in the class room with available tools of the ICT. The ICT is more effective in teaching-learning of English. It makes possible interactive teaching and learning styles with the help of computers, internet, LCD Projectors, and other electronic devices. The ICT may not be possible in rural areas because of various reasons such as power problems, lack of equipment, infrastructure, etc. However, the use of mobile phone by the teacher is helpful to implement the method of ICT in English class room. Although the method of ICT has been a successful one in European countries, its success in India is still a debatable question. However, it is essential for teachers to update their technological skills to impart knowledge or train the learners in the context of globalization.

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