

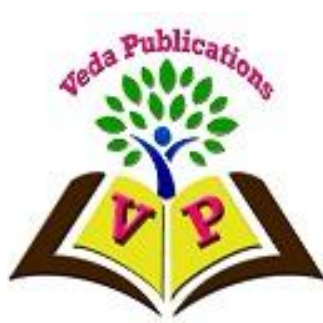


ICT AND ENGLISH TEACHER

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ABSTRACT



This paper deals with Information and Communication Technology (ICT), its impact on English teachers, its advantages and its necessity today, in the matter of teaching English language to learners. In the bygone days, English was taught through lectures and discourses. Presently, the world is becoming a global village. Many technological advances have been taking place in almost all fields including education. In the teaching of English language also, there have been many changes throughout the world. One of those changes is the introduction of ICT in educational institutions all over the world. As a result, there is considerable impact on English teachers. Of course, there are advantages both to teachers and students, consequent on the introduction of ICT. One advantage is that ICT enables English teachers and students to easily refer to recent and daily events. One difficulty is that English teachers and students have to take extra care, while handling the equipment related to ICT. However, the advantages of teaching English language to learners, through ICT, cannot be ignored

Keywords: *ICT, Daily Events, English Teachers.*

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1.INTRODUCTION

Teachers will not be replaced by technology but teachers who do not use will be replaced by those who do. -Sheryl Beach

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) plays a significant role not only in changing the teacher-centered approach to learner-centered approach but also in enhancing the quality of education. Some people believe that ICT is more effective than lectures in the matter of imparting knowledge in English language. Some others believe that lecture-method in teaching English language has its own benefits. However, a judicious combination of ICT and lecture-method is very useful to learners of English language. In general, learners opine that ICT has the power to attract them. They are showing considerable interest in technology and visual-based learning. ICT has been publicized as potentially powerful enabling tools for educational change and reform. Many kinds of applications that are used in the language classroom improved and enhanced the better lesson. (Hartoyo 2008). "The effectiveness of teaching impacts not only what is actually learned but also the quality of the people attracted into the profession" (Devika 2007). **What is required today is, to give due importance to ICT, while teaching English language to the learners In the circumstances, the teachers are advised to teach English through ICT. In fact, what is ICT? What is the new responsibility of the English teacher, particularly in the modern times? In what form, the use of ICT in English classroom gained wide application? What are the advantages of ICT? What are the factors that delay the progress of teaching of English language through ICT? What are the opinions of writers? What is needed today?** All these current and important issues are discussed, in detail, hereunder.

II.what is ICT?

ICT stands for Information and Communication Technology. ICT is that which helps to store, retrieve, transmit and receive information, electronically. According to Davis, ICT's have the potential to accelerate, enrich and deepen skills, to motivate and engage students, to help relate school experience to work practices, create economic

viability for tomorrow's workers, as well as strengthening teaching and helping schools change (2006).

III.WHAT IS THE NEW RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ENGLISH TEACHER, PARTICULARLY IN THE MODERN TIMES?

The new responsibility of the English teacher, particularly in the modern times, is to raise the standards through innovative approaches in teaching English language to the students. He can recommend necessary changes in the curriculum from time to time. He can make use of ICT to teach English language. He can employ tape-recorders and video-tapes, to teach English language in the language laboratory. He can use cell phones and web-based internet to improve the knowledge of the students. He has to expose the students to the latest trends in the English language learning. Then, the students will show more interest to learn the language. Thus, the responsibility of the teacher, in preparing the students to be up-to-date, has increased considerably, in modern times.

IV.In what form, the use of ICT in English classroom gained wide application?

The use of ICT in English class room gained wide application in the form of computer, internet, mobile gadget, language laboratory etc.

V. What are the advantages of ICT?

The following are the advantages of ICT.

- (1) ICT provides opportunities to learners to enhance their skills in learning English language.
- (2) ICT offers access to authentic materials related to English language.
- (3) By using ICT, it is possible to combine various skills to develop knowledge in English language.
- (4) ICT enables learners to focus on one specific item of the lesson at a time – either on vocabulary or pronunciation or grammar or any other item.
- (5) ICT gives opportunities to learners to participate in various activities including open-book system, video conferences and online assignments.



- (6) ICT helps in assessing quickly, the knowledge of the learners because the results come out quickly, in a machine.
- (7) ICT makes possible to teachers to adopt the teaching materials, keeping in view the needs and responses of learners.
- (8) ICT improves the ability of the learners to think independently.
- (9) ICT can create friendly environment to teachers and learners.

VI. What are the factors that delay the progress of teaching of English language through ICT?

The following are the factors that delay the progress of teaching of English language through ICT.

- (1) scarcity of pedagogical content.
- (2) lack of adequate number of teachers, who are trained in the use of ICT.
- (3) lack of sufficient time to teach English language through ICT.
- (4) lack of willingness of some teachers to adopt ICT.

VII. What are the opinions of writers?

The following are the opinions of writers.

(1) About the integration of ICT in teaching and learning.

The integration of ICT in teaching and learning is not a method; rather it is a medium in which a variety of methods, approaches and pedagogical philosophies may be implemented (Garret 1991).

(2) About ICTs in modern society:

Information and communication technologies have become commonplace entities in all aspects of life. ICTs have become within a very short time, one of the basic building blocks of modern society. (Daniel 2002)

CONCLUSION

Information and Communication Technology (ICT), in addition to the text books, is very helpful to teachers to teach English language, effectively. With the help of ICT, it is possible to assess the real potential of the learners in a short time and to give them necessary suggestions for improvement. ICT has the capability to meet the needs of the present

generation of learners of English language. Thus, ICT is a very useful technology, both to the teacher, and the learners. Hence, the introduction of ICT in educational institutions is a welcome step to improve the quality of education. **What is needed today is:** (1) to know the importance of ICT in the present globalised world, (2) to make the best use of ICT to improve the standards of learners and (3) to give due importance to the words of Dr.J.Sobhana Devi, about the role of ICT in enhancing teaching and learning:

ICT is a valuable tool to enhance teaching and learning. For teachers, ICT is a professional resource, a mode of classroom delivery and a source of valid and valuable text types. For students, ICT provides opportunities to communicate more effectively and to develop literacy skills including skills in critical literacy. (2014)

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