

51. ICT: An Indispensable Tool in English Language Teaching and Learning

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“A new age demands a new paradigm”

-Walter McKenzie

The process of teaching-learning has come a long way and evolved into a virtual learning environment. It is the learning culture and learning friendly environment that paved way for the development of such an environment which helped in turn to develop a variety of skills, abilities, competence and problem-solving capacities in an individual. Language is the mirror of human life which delineates the life of human. Language speaks man's personality. It is the cosmic medium like imparting the common information society. In today's world of emerging trends in technology, everything is flexible, especially the teaching of English language. Information and communication technologies (ICT) have become common place entities in all aspects of life. The use of ICT has fundamentally changed the practices and procedures of nearly all forms of endeavour in English Language teaching is becoming more and more

important and this importance will continue to grow and develop in the 21st century.

‘ICT in Education is important! Information and communication technology (ICT) have quickly become one of the basic building blocks of modern society. Today’s age of 21st Century is also the age of information and technology (IT). Every aspects of life are related to science and technology. Huge flow of information is emerging in all fields throughout the world. Now information and technology is popularly using in educational field for making teaching learning process successful and interesting for students and teacher both. In 1998, UNESCO World Education report refers about student and teachers must have sufficient access to improve digital technology and the internet in their classroom, schools, and teacher educational institutions. Teachers must have the knowledge and skills to use new digital tools to help all students achieve high academic standard. According to UNESCO (2002) “ICT is a scientific, technological and engineering discipline and management technique used in handling information, its application and association with social, economic and cultural matters”.

English and ICT have become essential tools for a number of non-datum and emotions of everyday life. English language has become a global language because of its numerous functions and preferences over several other languages over the globe. English has become the window to the world. English is not only the mother tongue of Britain but also to so many countries like Canada, USA, New Zealand etc .It is also used as second

language in many countries like Nigeria, Ghana etc. English has become a medium for business and interactional purposes among other functions. English is playing a major role in every field such as medicine, engineering, education, art and law, music etc. As the world is changing, there must be changes in language learning. But contemporaneous collide of globalization, the expanse of English and technological development have transformed our learning and teaching English as a Lingua franca in an unprecedented way. In every aspect of human life, Science, Information, Technology are playing a vital role. Even in the field of education the technological developments have started a new page. Traditional methods of teaching are not showing great impact on the learners. Technology has become a tool for making the learners innovative and also became a source for motivating the learners towards learning.

ICT as an Effective Tool in English Classroom

There are some kinds of technologies classified into information and communication technology commonly used in language context, such as:

- ❖ Interactive multimedia
- ❖ Computer
- ❖ Audio devices
- ❖ Internet
- ❖ Television
- ❖ Mobile gadget

- ❖ Social interface
- ❖ Assisted Language Learning
- ❖ EBooks
- ❖ Audio Books
- ❖ Interactive White Board
- ❖ Mobile Apps
- ❖ Audio-visual aids
- ❖ Overhead projectors/slides
- ❖ Tape-recorder/gramophone
- ❖ Film projector
- ❖ Language laboratory
- ❖ Web 2.0 applications

Advantages

The use of ICT has positive effects on foreign language teaching learning.

1. We can get the required information within a fraction of second.
2. Learners become more innovative with the help of e-learning.
3. ICT provides the information to the students which will be useful for them to compete with this competitive

world.

4. English lessons that incorporate multimedia applications can exert powerful motivation and provide bored students with exciting new ways to learn.
5. ICT can make students and teachers to work with current and authentic sources.
6. ICT ameliorates the learner's interaction, verbalization involvement in group collaborative learning.
7. Students can learn independently.

Disadvantages

1. Students get short span of attention because of the ICT in language learning.
2. Online learning cannot offer human interaction.
3. Students may open or log on to the unnecessary websites to play games or to watch movies etc.
4. Intense requirement for self-discipline and self-direction.
5. Good infrastructure and trained man power is required to use the ICT tools in teaching and learning.

Conclusion

In a multilingual, developing nation like India, English Language learning assumes a special place. At this juncture the English language teachers need to make a deliberate effort to

assimilate new strategies, techniques, innovations and nuances of ICT, hone their skills, equip themselves and cater to the needs of the learners and make their learning experience more rewarding. This study has examined the role of information and communication technologies in facilitating teaching and learning of English Language. It harnessed several views of scholars which established the fact that ICTs are indispensable tools that facilitate the teaching and learning of English Language. The paper has pointed out how multimedia technologies can be applied in the teaching of different aspects of English Language. This paper highlighted the importance of present teachers' understanding, not only about how to use ICT but also about the specific knowledge involved in the pedagogical use of ICT.