ICT: A Resourceful Tool for Learning and Teaching English

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Abstract

With the advancement of Science and Technology the world has become a global village and English has become a link language and an intercommunicating tongue. In order to enhance the holistic acquisition of English language it is necessary to integrate ICT (Information and Communication Technology) with the traditional method of learning and teaching English. Now a days ICT has turned into a resourceful tool for educational change and reform. With the establishment of ICT tools such as radio, TV, the internet, computer, laptop, tablets, e-books, e-learning etc in schools and colleges every student get benefited in enhancing his/her communication skills and the students find it interesting and the teaching will be interactive and lively. This paper focuses on how technology can be used in English classes to make learning more interesting and creative for students with the help of ICT.

Key words: Communication Skills, E-books, E-learning, Globalization, Internet, Learning, Lingua Franca, Teaching, Technology.

With the advancement of Science and Technology the world has become a global village and English has become a link language and an intercommunicating tongue. In India it is used as a Second Language as well as an Official Language. In this era of globalization it is necessary for everyone to acquire language skills i.e. LSRW (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing). In order to enhance the holistic acquisition of English language it is necessary to integrate ICT (Information and Communication Technology) with the traditional method of learning and teaching English. The integration of ICT in teaching and learning is

considered as a medium in which a variety of approaches and pedagogical philosophies may be implemented (Saleshi and Salehi). Now a days ICT has become a resourceful tool for teachers as well as students to hone their skills especially in an English language classroom globally. ICT has entirely changed the criteria for teaching and learning. Moreover it is convenient, effective and economical. With the establishment of ICT tools such as radio, TV, the internet, computer, laptop, tablets, e-books, e-learning etc. in schools and colleges every student get benefited in enhancing his/her communication skills and the students find it interesting and the teaching will be interactive and lively. The ICT has a vital role in the process of language teaching and learning by providing an influential base for efficient education (Ibrahim).

Some of the approaches, facilities and tools which constitute ICT are CAI (Computer Assisted Learning), CALA (Computer Assisted Language Assessment), CALI (Computer Assisted Language Instruction), CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning), MALL (Mobile Assisted Language Learning) , TELL (Technology Enhanced Language Learning), Blogs, Wiki, e-mail facility, Digital libraries, multimedia, mobile learning, free and open source software and social media, MOOCs, Virtual classrooms, documentaries, Digital storytelling, Mobile Applications, i-Pads, Digital Notebooks, Tablets, Smart Phones, Recorded audio- video materials, Online spoken tutorials, Digital pronunciation dictionaries etc.Technology in education is the efficient organization of any learning system adapting or adopting methods, processes, and products to serve identified educational goals. This also involves systematic identification of the goals of education, recognition of the diversity of learners' needs, the contexts in which learning will take place, and the range of provisions needed for each of these (Mulay and Chaudhary).

The traditional approaches and methods which teacher centredare no longer suitable and interesting to the present students. So it is time to change the teaching and learning

methods to be innovative and creative. Teaching and learning with ICT brings innovation and develops creative and motivational environment. Richard states that ELT is an area that has changed over the years, moving from very teacher-centred approaches to learner-centred ones (Quoted in Roblyer and Edwards).

Computers, Overhead projector, Lingua phone, Radio, Television, Internet, Social media, Online facilities for English language learning, Online language related courses, Feature Films in Teaching English etc. are very useful to develop language skills. Use of ICT helps in creating learner-centred environment in the ELT classrooms. Now-a-days, availability of electronic workbook as accompaniments to textbook represents the technological developments in learning (Garret 705).

A teacher is a beacon light who guides the children in the right path. So the teacher should get updated with the modern changes. For this ICT helps a lot. In recent times, the use of technology as a tool to develop the different language skills has received great attention (Dudeney; Chun and Chapelle; Young; and Yunus). A teacher can learn various language skills with the help of information and communication technologies. A teacher can increase his domain of Knowledge in English language with the help of e-journals, e-magazines and e-library that can be achieved only through the use of ICT. He can also participate in discussions and conferences with the experts of his English language teaching to improve his knowledge and skills in ELT.ICT helps a teacher in increasing his knowledge of English with the help of e-journals, e-magazines and e-library. It can also provide an opportunity to participate in discussions and conferences with ELT experts through audio and video conferences.

ICT happens to be a resourceful tool for a teacher to learn and use innovative methods of teaching which are useful to engage the students on various projects and it

provides teaching contents, home works etc. Hennessy stated that "the introduction of ICTs could act as a catalyst in stimulating teachers and pupils to work in new ways" (quoted in Parvin and Salam 49). It is also useful for teachers to participate in training programmes and workshops which are essential for his professional development.Integration of ICT into teacher education and school education system is an ongoing process. Teacher training in the classroom use of modern technology helps increase teacher's efficiency in using ICT in education (Bingimlas). ICT is also useful for the students who can get the English language learning materials available on internet, e-books, e-journals, e-magazines and social sites like linked-in etc. It also provides the teachers to study the various curriculums across the world and to frame their own curriculum according to their own environment.

Thus ICT is a resourceful tool for teachers as well as students in enhancing their language skills.

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