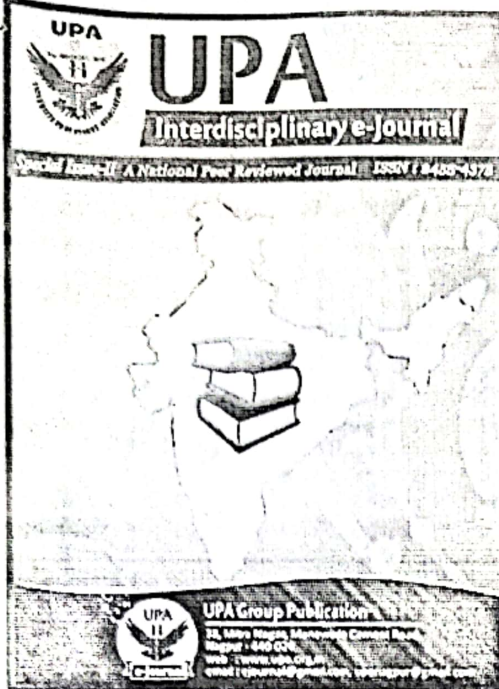




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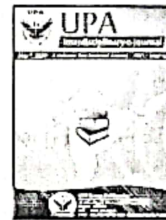
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THE ROLE OF ICT TOOLS IN ENGLISH TEACHING AND LEARNING

Dr. Prashant S. Dafar

Smt. Rajkamal Baburao Tidke Mahavidyalaya

Mouda Dist. Nagpur

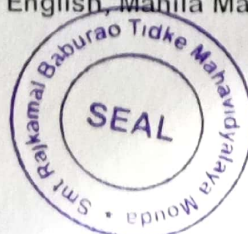
Abstract : As a foreign language, it has been task of complexity for the teachers to teach English language to the pupils who lack proper basic knowledge of English at higher education level. Modern method of teaching is rather fruitful than the traditional method of English teaching. ICT tools can be proved successful weapons to teach English language. English learning with ICT can enhance the standard of English among the students. They can learn listening, reading, writing and speaking English through proper channel. They can achieve excellence in their study of English. ICT tools are fruitful to distant learning. At present, ICT is influencing the teachers and the students throughout the country. It can improve the knowledge of pupils. The Smart Class Room can provide opportunity of quality education to the students. ICT tools can assist them to realize complex concepts in English. They can clarify their queries even at distant places. The use of ICT tools enables the students to seek interest in the learning. It can arouse their curiosity to learn new concepts in English. No doubt, it can save a lot of time of the pupils and the teachers. Although there are, to some extent, drawbacks of ICT tools, it can be proved as the best mode of learning.

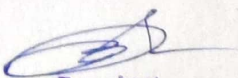
Keywords: ICT tools, traditional method, teaching and learning process, queries, comprehension, knowledge of English.

It has been assumed that the change is the law of nature. With the changing scenario, the human beings, as a part of habit, adopt changes and makes their lives convenient accordingly, whether it may be change in nature or change by the efforts of human beings, because man cannot live monotonous life. Man has adopted rapid changes and possessed skill in their respective fields. Education field is not an exception to this. Recently, different kinds of technological devices are being used in the process of education. English language teaching and learning process has been very complex but the use of modern technological tools has, to

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some extent, overcome this complex process. Hence it is a need of time to implement modern technological devices to teach and learn English language.

Information and communication technology has been supposed to be a milestone in the modern society. From last few years, the term ICT has been frequently used in education field. Even NAAC has also encouraged the use of ICT in higher education. Therefore, it is an integral part of education and hence it necessary to discuss the term ICT. ICT means information and communication technology. ICT tools are proved to be very fruitful in English teaching and learning process. R. Condie and B. Munro observes: "The evidence seem to point to an impact on attainment where ICT is an integral part of the day-to-day learning experiences of the pupils, although the weight of evidence is insufficient to draw from conclusion." (Condie and Munro 24)

The ICT tools inculcate radio, television, multimedia computer, films, video, mobiles, software, you tube, language laboratory, LCD projectors etc. Multimedia computer software is the most fruitful tool in education process. It is beneficial not only to the teachers but benefactors that is student. These ICT tools make the process of English learning amusing and they are proved to be more authentic and informative than the traditional method of chalk and blackboard. No doubt, ICT gives birth to creativity. A. P. J. Abdul Kalaam opines: "Creativity leads to thinking; thinking provides knowledge and knowledge makes you great." ICT arises the creativity and reasoning strength among the students. A well reputed Indian industrialist Narayan Murthy says: "Education is about applying mind and questioning. Curiosity is a good input to improve learning."

The teachers use both traditional and modern methods in teaching and learning process. In the 21st century, technologies are interactive but still low in the language classroom. (Dr. Raval 24) However, consecutive progress in technology is uplifting the confidence in English language learning process. ICT is the most useful for those who are disabled. It has been accepted throughout the world to improve and to make English teaching and learning transparent. ICT tools which are to be used profitably are:

Radio and Television, Documentary or Educational Films, Language Laboratory, Blogs, LCD Projector, Mobiles/Smart Phones, Websites, You Tube and other devices functioning on any technological device.

Radio and Television:

Instead of using traditional class room method, the teachers and students can gain the information and knowledge of English from broadcasting courses programmes on radio and television. The students can discuss the whole with the teachers and can clarify their concepts. This enhances listening and thinking capacity of the students. However, the students have to rely on the broadcasting courses only and non- availability of the topic of their choice can make them dunce.

Documentary or Educational Film:

Film is the most effective weapon to bring change in the mind as the new generation imitates the actions, dialogues and gestures in the films. Documentary or educational films providing information and use of English language must be introduced to the pupils. It is more effective than reading an event because the live images are unforgettable for them because the actions are being taken place in front of their eyes. The events in English novels, short stories, and actions and dialogues in English dramas are imitated by the pupils. It helps to enhance their pronunciation. It causes the enrichment of language. The films have great effect on society. It enables the pupils to elaborate an event: to ponder over an incident and they achieve reasoning strength. Moreover the pupils go through the varieties of speeches.

Language Laboratory:

English Language Lab., the most fruitful device of modern technology, can enlighten the pupils with the knowledge of proper reading, speaking, listening and developing the ideas of English language learning process. They can learn to sound the words with proper pronunciation. Moreover, the language laboratory is an inspiring mediator between the teachers and the pupils. A teacher can give an exercise to the pupil who can solve it on the computer screen and the teacher, if necessary, can suggest the remedies. It is the most amusing and interesting mode of interaction for both the teachers and the pupils.

Blogs:

A personal blog is very fruitful in English language learning process. It is a mean of interaction between the writers and the readers. What is written by the writer is comprehended by the reader who can urge his opinions or reactions on writing. It is a process

of communication through which the readers can learn new innovations in English language and the writer comes to know his shortcomings. Wikis are also used with many members and documents are edited by one or many members and correct language is put forward.

LCD Projector:

Recently, the concept of Smart Class Room has been accepted by higher education institutes. This digital learning is equipped with the technological weapons of software and audio visual devices. It assists the pupils to realize reading, listening and speaking skill. It enhances vocabulary and pronunciation adequately and "improves their reading and comprehension skills, and achieves academic excellence." LCD Projector can take the place of traditional class room. A class can learn with audio visual display of the language topic. The work onscreen has been already prepared by the teacher. Therefore, a lot of time is saved. The teacher inserts various tables, images, videos clips, notes and exercise and other study material in order to explain them to the pupils. The pupils can experience them eye to eye and their queries can be clarified. It helps the pupils to increase their interest in learning. It also heightens their skill of learning.

Mobiles or Smart Phones:

Mobile or smart phones are the most widely used tool of ICT. These weapons are the most helpful to the students to grow their knowledge of English language. They can enrich their vocabulary through internet on mobiles. The students can learn any required topic; there may be vocabulary, antonyms, synonyms, words spellings, definitions and knowledge of phonetics. All these are the basic things of English reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. What's App is the most popular general media especially used by the students in rural area. It is one of the best modes of communication between the teachers and the students. The students can ask their queries through what's app mode and get the solutions on their queries from their teachers. The teacher can share video of teaching or video calling teaching with the students. It enables them to figure out the sentences, vocabulary, exercise on grammar and explanation on any literary work. Video calling is a mode which enables the students to speak English practically. The students can listen and observe the teachers' style of talking, use of vocabulary, pronunciation and their gestures too. Therefore, mobile or smart phones are the most useful device in teaching and learning process through ICT.

Websites:

Website is a created web by the teacher who can provide a lot of work to the students through it. He can provide home work, assignment, tutorials, quiz, question bank, queries etc. to the students. It is e-learning. The students can respond positively and make themselves enlightened. The students can seek skill of reading, writing and speaking English language.

You Tube:

You Tube is a technological website which is fruitful to the learners. It is a process of sharing useful videos from teachers to learners. The teacher can place any video of drama, documentary film on You Tube and the distant students can make the use of it to comprehend the dialogues, themes, events and use of proper language.

E-mail

E-mail is a helpful device to learn English language. The students can create their personal mail account on Yahoo, Gmail etc. It is a child's play for the students. They can mail their queries to their teachers' mail and the teachers, in response, can mail the solutions. This tool of ICT is useful in distant learning. The students come to know their shortcomings in any exercise in English, may it be on grammar, comprehension, use of vocabulary and language.

Besides all these modern teaching methods, interactive whiteboard which takes place of chalk and blackboard, works as a screen touch chalk, video cameras, digital cameras, SKYPE by which one can communicate with the teacher and the friends and enrich their knowledge of English. All such tools are profitable not only to the students but teachers also.

Internet is a useful device of ICT to the learners of English language as the students need not to carry any book or dictionary with them. It helps to solve the problem of English at the place itself. This device can work at remote area. The students can share the information and knowledge of English with others.

Drawbacks:

ICT has provided different weapons of learning English to the society. Recently, ICT is being applied as a fuel to the traditional method of teaching and learning. However, it has not been yet implemented as a practice of everyday life in all spheres. In India, especially in rural

India, all these weapons are not affordable. It is true that these ICT weapons are fruitful in the process of teaching and learning in the institutes but largely it depends upon the students for whom these weapons are not affordable. Moreover, the students, to some extent, are not beware of the use of these weapons. The teachers too are not enough trained. Moreover, our present society believes in traditional method of learning English due to the lack of awareness of ICT tools. In addition, the motif of ICT is to enlighten the generation with the information of English language and to develop their skill. But it is possible that they can be only machines instead of applying their reasoning power and skill. They led to be numskull. The use of ICT is quietly seen in distant places in rural India. Selwyn remarks: "Schooling in the digital age is a complex, compromised and often contradictory affair [--but] this is not to say technology cannot act as a focus for improvement." (Selwyn 136)

Conclusion:

ICT can be proved to be the best mode of teaching and learning of English language. It can empower the students' skill of learning English if it is applied in day-to-day learning process. It assists the students to enrich their practice and ultimately knowledge of learning English. It also empowers the students with creativity. The students must accept new inventions that are taking place. However, everything depends upon the curiosity and reasoning power.

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