A Study on the Effectiveness of the ICT in English Language Teaching

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ABSTRACT: *"English is our major window on modern world" quotes our Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. In India English is accepted as a second language. Higher Education in India is possible only through English, as all worthy reference books are in English. Books on Science and Technology are also available in English. The contribution of English in the growth of knowledge in Medicine, Science and Technology is so great that we are able to live up to the international standards in these fields. Considering the benefits that we get from English, it is mandatory for the people of India, especially, right from the primary level, to learn English. Besides, learning English help us to face the global challenges. There is no field in the world which is not penetrated by the use of computer. Relying on the use of computer stipulates the learning of English. With the technological development, educational technology is used in the field of EFL teaching and learning. The use of educational technology has got a significant place in EFL teaching and learning. In fact, there are different points of view concerning its effect on the teachers' role and the learners' level.*

1. Introduction

The importance of teaching and learning through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is to involve the students while learning. ICT has got a significant place in teaching and learning English as a Foreign Language.The teaching and learning is more effective because of the various technological tools and devices used. Teaching a foreign language to a rural population is a challenging task, because four skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking has to be incorporated. Teaching can be improved by the technological innovations rather than the traditional approach. There has been a wave of interest in finding a new instrument to facilitate language teaching over the last few decades. According to the previous literature reviews, there is general agreement that technical advances paved the way for meeting the needs of an ever-changing world. A substantial amount of research has agreed that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) plays a critical role in the field of teaching English as a foreign language in this

changing educational environment (EFL). With the introduction of ICT as a new tool in language teaching, EFL teachers and methodologists are expected to take a fresh look at how to incorporate basic ICT skills into the EFL classroom. It is a requirement for language learners to develop the requisite technical skills. The use of ICT necessitates the learning of unique language skills and strategies.

2. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

In the area of teaching English as a foreign language, information and communication technology (ICT) plays a critical role (EFL). With the introduction of ICT as a new tool in language teaching, EFL teachers and methodologists are expected to take a fresh look at how to incorporate basic ICT skills into the EFL classroom. It is a requirement for language learners to develop the requisite technical skills. The use of ICT necessitates the learning of unique language skills and strategies.

The effect of incorporating ICT into language classrooms on curriculum reform, classroom teaching, and student learning is significant. The emergence of information and communication technologies (ICT) is thought to have significantly strengthened and created a powerful learning environment. The incorporation of ICT into a real-world language context is more important than ever before, as the technology's rising strength and capabilities are creating a shift in the language learning environment. A slew of research have been undertaken to look at the benefits of incorporating ICT into foreign language teaching. As a result, integrating modern ICT technologies such as computers, interactive whiteboards, LCD projectors, the internet, and social media into educational support would allow students to use English in a more normal, real-life, communicative, and stress-free manner.

Table 1 ICT Approach in the Classroom

Principle	Example
1. Gain the students' attention.	Use cues to signal when ready to begin.
	Move around the room and use voice inflections.
2. Bring to mind relevant prior learning.	Review previous day's lesson.
	Have a discussion about previously covered content.

3. Point out important information.	Provide handouts.	
	Write on the board or use transparencies.	
4. Present information in an organized manner.	Show a logical sequence to concepts and skills.	
	Go from simple to complex when presenting new material.	
5. Show students how to categorize (chunk) related information.	Present information in categories.	
	Teach inductive reasoning.	
6. Provide opportunities for students to elaborate on new information.	Connect new information to something already known.	
	Look for similarities and differences among concepts.	
7. Show students how to use coding when memorizing lists.	Make up silly sentence with first letter of each word in the list.	
	Use mental imagery techniques such as the keyword method.	
8. Provide for repetition of learning.	State important principles several times in different ways during presentation of information (STM).	
	Have items on each day's lesson from previous lesson (LTM).	
9. Provide opportunities for overlearning of fundamental concepts and skills.	Schedule periodic reviews of previously learned concepts and skills (LTM).	
	Use daily drills.	
	Play form of trivial pursuit with content related to class.	

3. Role of ICT in Teaching

1) It is helpful in the professional development of the teachers. A teacher can learn various language skills with the help of information and communication technologies. The teacher can do various certification programmes in English language teaching run by the famous educational institutions like Cambridge University, British Council etc. These

programmes help in enhancing his capacity to teach English language and to make his subject content easy, economic and more understandable.

2) A teacher can increase his / her domain of Knowledge English language with the help of e-journals, e-magazines and e-library that can be achieved only through the use of ICT. The teacher can also participate in discussions and conferences with the experts of his English language teaching to improve his knowledge and skills ELT through audio and video conferencing.

3) ICT helps a teacher to learn innovative methods of teaching. He can work with the students on various project and assignments. It also helps him in providing teaching contents, home works etc.

4) He may participate in various in-service training programmes and workshops which are essential for his professional development with the help of information and communication technologies.

5) ICT helps a teacher to guide his students about the English language learning materials available on internet, e-books, e-journals, e-magazines and social sites like linked-in which are helpful in better learning of English language skills.

6) ICT also helps him framing curriculum of English language learning. He can study curriculums ELT of different countries to study their pros and cons, challenges as well as sociological and psychological issues related to English language learners. All these things helps him in framing a curriculum that leads to achieve the aims and objectives of English language teaching.

4.   ICT Tools for Teaching and Learning

Several e-learning technologies are available for use in educational context. Although its forms are different in different context based on the economic situations of that context, almost all of the settings are trying to apply technologies in their education to meet the demands of learners and teachers.Some of the important ICT tools and applications used in the field of English Language Teaching are following:

Figure 1 ICT Tools

5. Benefits of ICT in Teaching and Learning

Teachers with ICT presentation can be well equipped with more information at a click. Pronunciation, accent, vocabulary, reading, writing, listening and speaking skills can be taught using ICT. Students' creative, analytical and productive skills can be honed by showing colorful pictures, inspiring speeches by great people. ICT is a universal means, as it can be used for teaching and also aids to make the studying process effective, interesting and accessible in the following manner:

Figure 2 Benefits of ICT in Teaching and Learning
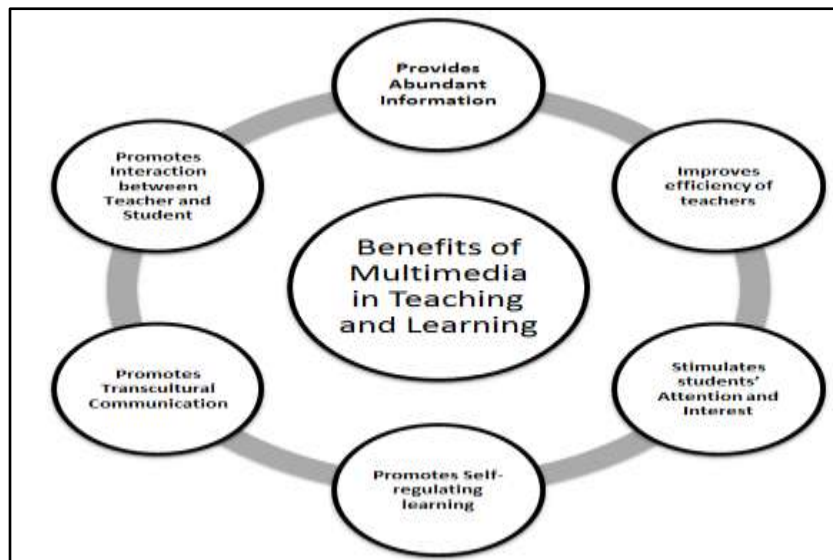
6.   Summing Up

ICT teaching provides the ability for learners to successfully develop their learning. Using advanced educational theory and achieving the aim of English teaching by reasonably using new education technology can only be seen in the sense of effective educational teachers. Understanding and exploring the learning of each person through ICT is very important. It can be very helpful and beneficial to the student to examine one's own personal ICT learning by allowing them to become more concentrated on an attentive learner, which will eventually improve educational performance. Discovering this ICT training will allow the student to recognise and learn from his or her own personal strengths and weaknesses.

Teachrs can incorporate ICT learning into their classroom by recognizing the learning styles of each of their students, matching teaching methods to the ICT learning of learners for difficult tasks, improving the ICT learning of weaker learners through easier tasks and preparation, and teaching students, choosing learning strategies. Teachers should have the time to improve and enhance their skills as well as the chance to spread their awareness, opinions, observations, and experience.

While ICT provides teachers with tremendous opportunities to make learning and teaching environments meaningful and efficient, ICT alone does not provide a good atmosphere for learning and teaching. ICT is unable to provide the solution to resource challenges, inspiration, and education standards. Technology is not a proxy for money and time - it needs to run efficiently. The goal of using ICT instruments is to find the best ways for both students to learn effectively and for teachers to teach effectively.

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