



TOPIC -ICT In Honing English Language Communication Skills

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ABSTRACT:

This is the world of sophisticated technology. All the rotten methods of teaching as well as learning methods are superseded by computers, power point presentations, e learning and so on and so forth. This paper throws light on how language learning affected after the invention and implementation of ICT tools and methods. English, the language and the subject which has been started only as one of the other subjects has widened its horizons rapidly in the twentieth century. Because of globalization English language learning and using took a pivotal role and extended to the maximum extent. With the development of Information and communication technology everybody turned towards computers, which in turn has been promoting them to the development and usage of English language. ICT's contribution in gathering information regarding education, medicine, irrigation, scientific development, technological development, agriculture and getting benefitting is enormous. In toto, world has benefitted to a large extent by these ICT tools.

KEYWORDS-

English language amelioration, sophisticated methods, ICT and its contribution, many a field, rural students etc.

INTRODUCTION-

It is an undeniable fact that in the present world of sophisticated technology and globalization honing English language communication skills has been at top priority. The subject which has been taught only as one of the other subjects reached the status of international language and global language and it has almost become the world's mostly spoken language and also which is said to be the lingua franca of all the nations. The main aim of ICT in education is implementing ICT equipment and tools in teaching and learning process as a media and methodology. The purpose of ICT in education is generally to familiarize students with the usage and working of computers and related social and ethical values. ICT has also enabled learning through multiple intelligences as ICT has introduced learning through simulation games;

Please cite this Article as : S. Parvathi Devi , TOPIC -ICT In Honing English Language Communication Skills : Golden Research Thoughts (Sept ; 2012)



this enables active learning through all senses.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT BEFORE AND AFTER THE INVENTION AND USAGE OF ICT:-

Language acquisition prior to ICT's introduction - Prior to the invention of various information and communication technological tools, the ancient teacher centered and lecture method had been in wide usage. English had been taught and learnt only as one of the other subjects. There had been no particular emphasis on language skills. The curriculum had been designed only with a few lessons with some questions to improve and test the level of comprehension of students. But in twentieth century, there had been drastic change in the entire education system with the advent of information and communication technology. All the rotten methods are disappeared and superseded by innovative student centered and task based methods in which learners are pivotal and the enhancement of learning ability is prioritized to the maximum extent.

Change in language acquisition after ICT's entry –“The illiterates of twenty first century,” according to futurist, Alvin Toffler, “will not be those who cannot read and write, but those cannot learn, unlearn and relearn.” (US Dept. of labor, 1999) Educational institutions must promote “learning to learn” i.e., the acquisition of knowledge and skills that make possible continuous learning over the life time. (Thornburg, David, 2000)The chief emphasis is always laid on students' learning and grasping styles with the advent of ICT. Learners have the access to vast variety of materials and various learning styles. This caused for enthusiastic learning, which significant change includes the rapid dissemination of all modern technological tools- power point presentations, using OHPs, audio visual aids, CDs, extensive use of internet and gathering information from recently developed sources, research projects and so on and so forth. In toto this is a welcoming change which serves the purpose of students and which enables the students to meet the growing demands of present day scenario.

With the development of technology people those who are in need of any kind of information regarding any field will surely go to search and gather the information through internet. As English is the lingua franca of many a nation across the globe it has been in extensive use and also as a medium of language. Hence everybody who needs to search something in internet should have the knowledge of English. Since the internet usage demands the knowledge of English language proficiency everybody turned to learn and use English. Therefore ICT acts as a good motivator towards learning English.

ICT AND ITS CONTRIBUTION AT VARIOUS LEVELS:-

How ICT is useful to the people of rural back ground- In our country India where the large part of country is with villages and undeveloped areas, and where majority of people are illiterate, it's highly difficult to have the awareness of various latest developments. Students from such kind of back ground are generally with less confidence levels and don't have any accessibility towards any kind of development. Particularly when they come to contact with urban students, they struggle both psychologically and educationally. When there is no one to facilitate or instruct or assist modern means of communication and technological tools will make a way to ameliorate language skills which are essential and without which the rural students cannot compete with urban or sophisticated students. Having sat at one's home, one can develop a lot. Hence as a self-motivator, internet helps the students to the maximum extent. Not only for gaining and attaining mastery over language anybody can use and benefit from internet have a better access towards the recent innovations, developments through ICT.

Easy and quick communication - People can communicate across the world, clarify their doubts through contacts with eminent people in the relating realm, improve the discourse in language, send messages , download materials and whatever they want to learn and need. Knowledge levels as well as awareness in various aspects can highly be improved with technological tools.

ICT AS A GOOD SOURCE OF INFORMATION PROVIDER -

Through modern means of technology acquiring information has come to the reach of every home. Regarding gathering information for the purpose of research in any field, to know about latest developments in the field of agriculture, geographical information, movies, recent developments, politics,

sports, business opportunities, job opportunities, attending to online interviews, taking on line examinations everything is available in internet. Technological developments contributed a lot to the service of society in many a form. One can reserve tickets for travelling across one's country by sitting at home. Online payments can be done through internet for many a household purpose and so on and so forth. A lot of information is available for researchers in internet. Students, teachers, and researchers those who would like to contribute for the development of society can have the maximum benefit through internet. Public can be aware of recent developments in the field of medicine, and agriculture and it's a great boon to unknown people. Knowledge about various things can be easily and rapidly disseminated through internet. ICT as a stress-free tool: - As a part and parcel of ICT, listening to music relieves tension and gives happiness to us. Attending to interesting mails, watching jokes and news and entertainment channels act as a wonderful means of stress relievers. The busy people, technocrats, politicians, professionals, and students everybody those who get fatigued by continuous work pressure turn towards the sophisticated modes such as cell phones, internet, and televisions to get relaxed. In olden days going to theatres is the one and only entertainment which gives solace to the fatigued individuals.

Cell phone – The most common tool in providing information and how it contributes to improve knowledge and dissemination of information-In olden days, students will have to go for the aid of dictionary whenever they have to refer to the meaning of certain words. But now- a- days by using cell phone also they can get the same benefit. Furthermore it reduces the strain of carrying the dictionary and at the time of travelling using dictionary is not as comfortable as that of cell phone. This minimizes the difficulty and maximizes the comfort by its size and easy portability. The recent ultra modern cell phones possess wonderful features when compared to the older ones, when they are used properly for right purposes. Even net facility is also there in mobiles and the benefits whatever can be had through internet can also have through certain cell phones of high technology.

Role of power point presentations in effective learning and teaching language skills:- In spite of taking great amount of strain in carrying pieces of chalks, dusters and writing continuously on boards and cleaning them not only wastes the time but also consumes the physical energy of the teachers. Further more students attention is distracted and they try to involve in other unwanted activities such as making noise in the class and disturbing fellow-students etc. But these modern power point presentations not only lessen the problems of teachers but also improve the concentration levels of students. They observe spellings, try to comprehend the matter, if any wrongly spelt words are there, they notice and bring to the notice of the teacher and by which they remember well. A kind of new attention is paid when the teaching is taken place by means of these power point presentations. Students will be motivated towards presentations in national and international conferences through these.

CONCLUSION -

After the invention and implementation of information and communication technologies, the entire teaching learning methodology experienced drastic changes. That is also especially in language learning since English is the lingua franca of most parts of the world. Undoubtedly The ICT proved as successful tools for teaching as well as learning instruments. After some time, of course, to the maximum extent there may not be any school or college where teaching –learningg will be taken up without ICTs. They proved to be the most efficacious means of honing communication skills which is a major and pivotal part of English language teaching.

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