

RESEARCH ARTICLE



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## Use of ICT in ELT: Emerging Trends and Initiatives towards Digital Classroom

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### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to review some previous works and methods in the field of ICT integrated to English language teaching (ELT). This study seeks how technological advancement is improving the standard of education in classrooms. The use of ICT to English language teaching lends itself to more student-centered learning settings. These technologies are making classroom teaching and learning more effective rather than the traditional methods. The primary aim of this study is to indicate what has been done about ICT implementation in English language teaching by the government or an individual. Schools and some communities are still lacking in resources and quality education. ICT is an innovative method of learning and teaching but the ratio differs as everyone is unable to appreciate the use of technology. This study will reveal some of the initiatives taken by the central and state government to enhance the education level in English language teaching in classrooms. Central and state govt. is making continuous efforts to make classrooms digitally equipped.

**Keywords:** Information Communication Technology, English Language Teaching, Counterparts, innovative, digitally equipped.

### Introduction

ICT means Information and Communication Technology. "ICT in education point of view refers to Information and Communication Technology such as computers, communications facilities that innovate teaching-learning process.

In the context of the global exchange, the role of ICT has become inevitable in the 21st century. Its use gives a chance to teachers as well as students to increase the quality of education and meet the requirements set by the coeval knowledge society. ICT has become an essential tool for educational alteration and reform. ICT to ELT making the classroom atmosphere more friendly and technical,

with the help of technology students can learn at their own pace effectively.

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to ELT in Schools was launched in December 2004 and revised in 2010 to make classrooms more innovative and technical for the teaching-learning process. The Scheme was launched to bridge the gap between traditional methods of teaching and digital methods. MHRD (Ministry of Human Resource Development) launched this E-Scheme to provide support to States/UTs to establish computer labs on a sustainable basis.

### Language Learning through Technology

ICT is a broad and ever-changing discipline. Beatty defines, CALL as “Any process in which a learner uses a computer and as a result improves his or her language and it covers the internet and different computer applications. The computer can act as an aid that generates analysis, discussion, and writing.

Technology in education was proposed in the 1980s for imparting better and efficient education which is completely justified through the TAM model.

### Technology Acceptance Model

The theoretical framework of the present study to some extent is based on the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM). TAM (see Figure 1) was specifically designed to explain teacher-pupil technology acceptance and use across a wide range of organizational contexts, computer technologies, and user populations (Davis, 1989). Recently, Legris, Ingham & Collette (2003) pointed to the fact that though TAM has been a useful model to examine ICT usage, it needs to include other variables as well. B. Hashemi (Surendran 176).

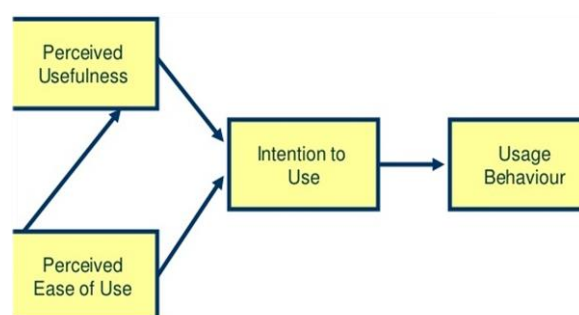


Figure 1: Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) by Davis et al. (1989)

Source: slideplayer.com

Following the framework proposed by Davis et al, another framework for the adoption of ICT by English teachers was proposed by Samuel and Zaitun (2007) to depict those factors. Samuel and Zaiuns' model is specific to the field of ELT and is very close and useful to our study.

The model explains that education upliftment can only be possible through several technological advancements. Technology enhances

the level of education through the knowledge of usefulness, individual should be competent in technology, user's intention, and behavior towards usage.

### E-Learning

Television and radio broadcasts are also a form of e-learning. Even in the absence of dyadic communication concerns involved (administrators, facilitators, or learners), the learning activities are managed. The awakening awareness of the technology and the ICT literacy is elaborated as follows.

### The Internet and Teaching-Learning Process

The internet offers the best way to learn a language other than raptness in English speaking ambience. Internet users may return to sites frequently or use the internet for interaction to share their information and ideas at their own pace. Digital technology is rapidly used by students and teachers for the improvement of the classroom (Lee 115).

### ICT Teaching Learning Aids

#### Interactive White Board

Gareth Davis says that “IWB brings everything together at one place at one time with the use of authentic materials.” IWB acts as one of the best methods. IWB offers teachers to comprise video clips, film interviews, electronic microscopes; different websites, etc. It improves the social skills of the students like cooperation and participation. (Brezinova 23) According to Cunnings, worth “vocabulary was a neglected area of foreign language teaching but it has gained its due recognition in the last few years” (1998:38) (25).

#### Audio-visual aids and Audio Books

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the use of AVA has become usual. Teachers must adopt topical and innovative teaching techniques instead of traditional methods of teaching. The uses of AVA make the students much more active and provide attentiveness and enthusiasm.

Audiobooks are not the discovery of this century or even of the last one but literature begins

with a sound, not by word. Audiobooks are applicable for English language learners and teachers. Audiobook helps to develop all the basic and advanced language skills of LSRW. "The use of audiobooks with struggling, reluctant or second language learners is powerful since they act as a gallows that allows students to read beyond their actual reading level"(Beers 998:33, Chen Slu-Hsien 2004) (Ammanni 3).

### **Overhead projectors/slides**

Projectors are used for unveiling objects in full-color Overhead projectors are used in language teaching and learning to supplement the black-board. Information can be projected more efficiently.

### **Web 2.0 applications and mobile phones need of the hour**

It was introduced in 2005. It promotes sharing between users. It is the most important and reliable source of language learning and interaction. Teacher-pupil can search out for advanced technical techniques. The learners can be encouraged to write their blogs. Social networking sites like Facebook, bebop, and flicker have become very popular. These can be useful for language learning.

Using a mobile phone is like an assistant for solving common problems.

The mobile phone is a very popular tool amongst teachers and learners in language learning. It acts as a pocket computer that is approachable any time anywhere.

### **Students without Cell Phones/Smart Phones**

Another issue is that every student is not having a cell phone. The other way to work and impart efficient learning around is to have students working in groups, collaborating, and solving problems together. If we want to find a way any problem can be solved. Before using a cell phone in the classroom we need to make sure that the classroom atmosphere should be interactive. Let them teach us about how to improve their language learning skills. Every student should understand that technology helps them learn

at their own pace but it should be used inappropriate manner.

### **Government initiatives for technology in education**

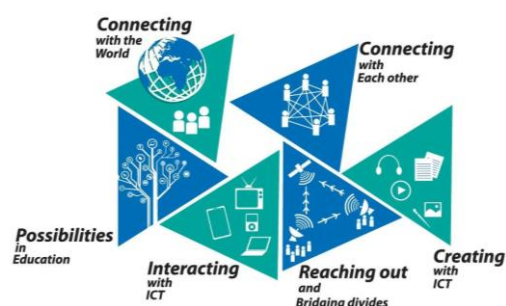
Central Institute of Technology in Education (CIET) has taken up many initiatives for the upliftment of teaching-learning practices. Under CIET there is a separate department named Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT).

DICT is responsible for creating multimedia materials for both teacher and pupil, DICT forward these materials to SCERT and other educational sections. DICT impart training to teacher and researchers for the better outcome of resources.

CIET framed certain policies on ICT IN schools like National policy on ICT in School Education, ICT@ school scheme. With the continuous efforts of CIET, they promoted ICT through E-Pathshala ( performance indicators PINDICS), ICT curriculum, Swayam free online Education, National challenge for school students, National awards for teachers, PARAKH use of ICT in Education, NROER( National Repository Open Educational resources) it provides interactive and games, workspace, e-courses, social networks, and events.

### **Six Strands of Education**

The ICT curricula have defined six strands of education for ICT teaching and learning. The main objective is to handle today's technology and create space for future technology.



Source: CIET <https://ictcurriculum.gov.in/>

Barriers of ICT in English language teaching:-

- Plagiarism
- Student privacy
- Low-income groups
- Preparation time
- New administrative responsibilities

### Conclusion

The use of ICT to ELT increases innovative teaching and learning. It provides quality learning materials and creating autonomy of learning. ICT to ELT is enhancing the academic excellence of students and improving English communicative skills for their prosperous future. The curriculum should be technologically advanced with the help of innovative teaching aids. Learners must be conversant with technology and create a better atmosphere that can promote cultural diversity, have positive motivational effects and raise self-esteem. Government initiatives are pretty helpful for teachers and students. The central government is preparing some policies and conducting workshops which are making teachers more competent. For promoting ICT teaching and learning government has introduced wards also. Teachers learning and preparation of lesson through a technology called as flipped classroom, in these classroom teachers prepare their lecture and record for classroom teaching and learning as per the requirement of students, these classrooms create an optimistic approach towards ICT integrated to ELT.

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