

# Use of ICT in Teaching and Learning Process

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**Abstract:** Information and Communication Technology plays an important role in the teaching and learning process. It can be used as an aid in teaching and learning and help the students and teachers to cope with the digital world. But there are several factors responsible for creating barriers to integrate it in education. But at the same time it will also help to achieve some major objectives in education and make learning interesting and worth learning.

**Keywords:** ICT, Teaching, Learning, digital world, barriers, objectives

## Introduction

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a term that includes any communication device or application as well as the various services and applications associated with them. ICT can also be understood as a study of developing and using technology to process information and aid communication. The use of ICT offers equitable, affordable and convenient tools for education. Technology is used by all of us knowingly or unknowingly. We gather as well as pass on information in our day to day life using various electronic gadgets like cell phone, PC, Laptop, notebook, CD-ROM, video disc, radio, cable TV and so on. Use of email, satellite communication, interactive radios, local and wide area networks and computer simulation makes it easy to gather, analyze, use and share information. Technology is used to create, store, exchange and utilize information in its various forms including data, conversations and images.

## ICT as a tool in Teaching and Learning

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has become an integral part of most institutions, organizations and businesses these days. Technological innovation is essential for human development. From the printing press to the computer, people have devised tools for facilitating learning and communication. Technology is not inherently good or bad, the outcome depends on how it is used. Evidence has confirmed ICT can make a significant contribution to teaching and learning across all subjects. It can be a tool for improvement in educational institution. It is a core skill which is essential for participation in today's society and economy. The effective and systematic use of ICT is integral to the wider education strategy to bring about further improvements in teaching and learning. ICT motivate and engage the learners in learning activities. It offers personal approaches to learning, unleashing creativity. ICT allow independence in learning and develop collaborative and team working skills. It reduces bureaucratic burdens on teachers, saves time in lesson planning and offers a more comprehensive approach to assessment.

Teachers are becoming increasingly aware of the benefits of technology and are beginning to incorporate it into teaching often replacing former activities with ICT alternatives. This begins to have beneficial effect on teaching and learning. Teachers are becoming increasingly familiar with appropriate use of ICT and can integrate it into many aspects of their ongoing teaching. Teaching and learning begins to be significantly

enhanced. Government initiatives, training and seminars have encouraged the use of ICT tools to stimulate teachers. It is continuously being integrated into the traditional classroom setting. ICT can improve teaching by enhancing prior knowledge and introducing new ways of teaching and learning. ICT can also help to reduce social disparities between pupils since they work in teams in order to achieve a given task or common goal.

### **ICT in education can be used as a tool to:**

- Use advanced technology in teaching and learning.
- Engage and motivate the learner.
- Provide opportunities to learner to learn in alternate ways. This is possible because ICT uses a wide range of information and techniques to support critical thinking.
- Allow the learner to identify and select the most useful sources of information.
- Enable the learner to review, refine, redraft and modify work in progress.
- Help the learner to refine their performance and present it more effectively.

### **Implications of ICT in Education**

- It is estimated that the total amount of information doubles every four to five years. ICT is crucial in coping with this explosion of knowledge over the lifetime of the learner, otherwise person's knowledge becomes obsolete and development of countries becomes marginalized.
- ICT can speed the path towards learning and expand the learning options through self learning.
- With ICT, learning can be carried out at a time and place of the learner's choice.
- ICT can overcome physical and geographical barriers and facilitate communication. It has the potential to eliminate the artificial boundaries between schools and the outside world. It promotes an environment that emphasizes collaboration rather than competition.
- Knowledge of ICT will help to familiarize new generations with the technologies that have become the integral components of the modern world.
- ICT has the potential to bring the contents of the best teachers to classrooms anywhere in the world.
- ICT with the use of Internet and other technologies has the potential to connect classrooms to research centers and students to actual scientists for discussions.

### **Barriers to integrate ICT in education**

The use of ICT in classroom is very important for providing opportunities for students to learn to operate in an information age. Teachers face barriers in using ICT in education since they have a strong desire to integrate ICT in their teaching process. The major barriers are lack of confidence, lack of competence and lack of access to resources. Confidence, competence and accessibility have been found to be the critical components of technology integration in schools. ICT resources including software and hardware, effective professional development, sufficient time, and technical support need to be provided to teachers. No one component is sufficient to provide good teaching. The presence of all component increases the possibility of excellent integration of ICT in learning and teaching process.

- **Lack of confidence:**

Several researchers indicate that one barrier that prevents teachers to integrate ICT in teaching is lack of confidence that prevent them to use in their teaching process. It further indicates fear of failure caused lack of confidence among the teachers.

- **Lack of competence:**

Another barrier is lack of competence among teachers while using ICT in teaching. Teachers lacked the knowledge and skill to use computers and hence find it difficult to integrate it in their teaching process.

- **Lack of accessibility:**

Another complex barrier is the lack of accessibility which prevents the users to integrate it in education. This barrier discourages teachers from integrating technologies in education.

- **Lack of training, lack of time and lack of technical support** are the other barriers that discourage teachers from integrating technology in their teaching and learning practice.

### **ICT will help to achieve the following four objectives in education:**

- Helping more people to gain access to all levels of education.
- Improving the quality of education.
- Enhancing the lifelong learning.
- Assist in carrying out non-formal education.

### **Conclusion:**

Thus to conclude ICT has great potential to contribute to different aspects of educational development and effective learning by enhancing quality of learning, teaching, motivating and engaging students in the learning process.

### **Reference:**

[http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/information-communication-technologies-education-asia-ict-integration-e-readiness-schools-2014-en\\_0.pdf](http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/information-communication-technologies-education-asia-ict-integration-e-readiness-schools-2014-en_0.pdf)