

**4.****Teaching English and Role of New Technology**

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Technology has always been part and parcel of teaching and learning environment. Covid-19, the Pandemic has brought to the fore the usage of technology in teaching – learning process. It has become an essential part of teachers’ profession. To teach English Language effectively , traditional teaching methods like lecture giving with the help of chalk and board is not sufficient. Technology enhanced teaching environment in more effective manner than teaching based on lecture method. Technologies aid has considerably changed English teaching methods. It has changed the manner of teaching from teacher- centered to student-centered. Teachers act as facilitators and guide their learners learning and this transition is very useful to increase the learning process. Technology plays a key role in language learning. It is to used just as aid in teaching learning process. It can never replace teachers role in teaching.

This paper focuses on the role of using new technologies in teaching English as a second foreign language. Covid-19 brings a drastic change in India's teaching learning education system. Digital India concept of the government is emerging as a vital instrument for solving the present crisis rises due to Covid-19 . It is true that technology can never replace face to face personal communication which students have in the class. But in the lockdown period it is the need of the hour to use technology in the education field also. According to the reports ,of The World Economic forum, there is a sudden rush in the use of different online apps, video conferencing apps, and online learning software in the last three months. Our country also has witnessed an e-learning boom after Covid-19. Teachers ,in order to have interaction with students, rely on Google meet, Zoom, Cisco, WhatsApp and Skype. These apps are becoming the norm for students, parents and teachers. Yet, this sudden , unexpected and immediate change to online teaching can hardly make up balance to the absence of classroom teaching.

The lockdown has accelerated the usage of digital technology in the field of education. Due to lockdown, everybody is locked in their own house, teachers and students can't go to the campus to impart and to get education. It is an ideal time to get equipped with new tools, apps to deliver lessons, to the students, in a meaningful manner. It has become obvious that technology can play an important role for language teaching and learning. Many teachers have already incorporated various types of technology (e.g. Skype, Google, YouTube etc.) into their language curricula. The use of such technology is becoming more and more popular and many studies have been done that discuss how such technology can be used for language teaching. English Language can also be effectively taught with the help of latest technologies.

English is a language used globally. It is used not only in America, Britain, Africa but it is used as a universal language in the whole world. English is accepted as the second language in India. According to Mahatma Gandhi ji, "English is a language of international commerce, it is the language of diplomacy and it contains many a rich literary treasures".

William Littlewood aptly states

The study of second language learning is an immensely rich and varied enterprise. Most participants in this enterprise still see its ultimate justification in terms of desire to improve learning and teaching. The people of India are no exception to English. English is accepted as second language in India. Teachers of English face the challenges to teach English to the students as foreign language.

The advancement in the field of science and technology have given wings to the teachers and students to use technology and to apply it while teaching students through audios, videos in English language class teaching. This brings harmonious setup for refinement and research on English teaching method in the present prevalent pandemic Covid 19 situation.

David Warlick states that

"We need technology in every classroom and in every student and teachers' hand, because it is the pen and paper of our time, and it is the lens through which we experience much of our world." (Online)

There is significant proliferation of literature ,regarding the use of technology , in teaching of English language. Technology has an inevitable role in changing pedagogy of education system .It is pertinent to mention here that ,as Language teacher, we must make ourselves equipped with latest technologies to cope up with every circumstances. There should be preparedness for every critical situation. Most of the teachers rely on traditional method of teaching only few teachers use technology. There is nothing wrong in traditional manner of teaching but covid-19 has completely changed the scenario of education system. It becomes pertinent for every teacher to make themselves aware about new technologies in the field of education.

Teachers at present are using various online modes of teaching like WhatsApp, learning management system, Google forms ,Google classroom,Moodle,Edmodo, testmoz ,quizzes and many other platforms so that the study of students may not hamper in this crisis/ catastrophic situation.

In the Indian context , teaching English with the help of technology has both benefits and pitfalls. As far as necessity and benefit of use of technologies in teaching of English is concerned, after complete lock down of educational Institutes, the students can only be taught through online modes. Technology has a plethora of benefits which can aid and facilitate English learners. Technology helps in developing students interest in study. As normal classroom teaching is not possible in the times of pandemic, so technology featuring audio - video with animation effects cultivate students interest and motivates them to study and their involvement. Arranging quizzes, PPT presentation, online meetings etc. also develop their critical thinking. It is student centric rather than teachers centric. Students would study through books ,one source, but with technology and web based learning , access to more material on the same topic has widened. The coming decade would be the decade of ICT. Technology not just ICT, but radio, televisionas well could take the Eklavya of the Mahabharata and make him do better than Arjun.

Technology helps in developing student's communication capacity. Quizzes, PPT, home assignments etc. activate students' thinking. The technology provides greater opportunities to the students for their holistic development. It is true that in traditional classroom teaching method various manners are available like group discussion, subjects question, extempore, debates which offers opportunity for the development of communication skill but technology increases the pace and develops the capacity of communication skill.

Technology and teaching English effectively are related to each other. They are sides of the same coin. The teacher now with the present situation dared to exploit it as a tool for teaching learning process. The use of technology as a teaching- learning medium will surely make the teaching learning process effective and efficient.

Wang in Pinar Kasaponglu-Akyol claims that there are various benefits implementing technology in in classroom increasing student's language competence, their writing, reading, listening and speaking skills.

The material distributed to the students can be various, not only in the form of word presentation but can be richer with text, visual, audio film and animation. Google Technology like Google Drive, Google Docs , google forms, google sheets and other kinds of technology like Moodle, LMS etc. in standard and non-standard pedagogical methods. Teachers can motivate students and can use technology in judicious manner to increase the enthusiasm among students when implemented correctly.

As everything has both benefits as well as pitfalls similarly technology has some loopholes in communicating in Indian scenario. At first, technology facility is not available to the students of rural belt. Teachers are also not well equipped and gear up with the knowledge of technology. It is true that usage of technology in education has various advantages but we cannot keep aside the various problems. There is lack of humane and psychological conditioning. The immediate mechanical feedback provided by technological mediums is no match to the teachers' warm explanations and humanised feedback. The satisfaction and learning level is much enhanced by humane approach. Use of much technology also restricts students' cognitive abilities.

Technology should be used in a balanced manner otherwise it can turn into an impediment; thereby hampering the process of language learning. Technology is to be used as assistance by the teacher in teaching process. If a teacher is totally dependent on technology, teacher may not be able to lead English teaching and becomes slave to the multimedia devices , the teacher - student interaction lessons as there is no eye to eye contact between them . Students are totally engrossed in screen. Teacher student interaction increases comprehension and improves students thought process and patterns. When the interaction between them lessons a class run based on technology is just like a show where students views only where they were earlier participants.

Bill Gates states that,

Technology is just a tool. In terms of getting the kids working together and motivating them, the teacher is most important.

Education based on technology and innovative education techniques serve as assistance rather than the master. It should not be the dominating feature in the class. It can never substitute a teacher teaching in a class having eye to eye contact with the students. Teaching method of showing material just on screen is inappropriate. A teacher's position cannot be supplemented with technology usage. Even when technology is used teacher should have dominant role.

It has rightly been said by George Couros

*“Technology will not replace great teachers but technology in the hands of great teachers can be transformational.” (online)*

Therefore, English teachers should use technology in a judicious manner to teach English as a second language to the students. There should be balance between audio- visual impact of technology and also to provide sufficient time and chance for role plays, language games, group works etc. for holistic development of the skills of the students.

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