The Role of ICT Tools for supporting the Teaching and Learning Process in English Language

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Abstract

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has grown so rapidly that without becoming conscious we have become a part of it today. A personal laptop, tablet and a mobile phone with android applications and hi-fi features have become the necessity of the citizen of 21st century. A small gadget called mobile phone has captured a variety of tools within a very small shape and affordable price. A mobile phone can also be used in support of teaching-learning process with the purposive interest of being the easiest and fastest tool for communication. There are many websites which provide the facility to create groups of numbers of your choice for sending SMS in bulk. This paper looks into the possibilities of getting important information to be shared with the learners' group through the mobile device. The objective of presenting this paper is to bring to light the various ways in which to design one's own android application as per requirement for supporting the teaching-learning process and hence through the use of technology help the learning process not only in English but also in any subject/discipline.

Key Words: Mobile learning, ICT, SMS etc.

INTRODUCTION

Language is the basic medium of interaction without which social life of humans could not have emerged. The miracle of technology is fast taking track of human attitude and life sustaining achievements. For the past several decades we see that technology has taken much of language instruction through use of computer in English language teaching through various softwares available for learning pronunciation, interview skills, group discussion etc., in laboratories. Teachers should enlarge their vision to suit to the vision shown by technology in language instruction. Online learning has become the rule of the day. It has in fact liberated students to turn to dynamic learning strategies in exciting ways.

The classroom environment is important for interaction of students and should provide opportunities for students to learn:

- Interaction and negotiation of meaning
- Help them to involve in authentic tasks
- Encourage exposure to wide range of information
- Enable them to give feedback
- Improve their cognitive skills and learning styles with motivation
- Reduce their stress/anxiety levels with autonomy in learning.

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Information sharing has become so quick due to the use of ICT that just in a few seconds almost we are able to connect ourselves in any corner of the world. The world has become small due to globalization and as Saxena and Rai talk of ICT as one which "plays a significant role in transforming education according to the needs of the society…ICT is not only an essential tool for teachers in their day to day work but it also offers opportunities for their own professional development".

Role of ICT:

- ICT enables teachers to interact with students over physical distance.
- ICT gives access to much information and material online via journals and libraries.
- ICT provides a quick platform for sharing of resources.
- ICT allows for dynamic representation of subject
- ICT allows multidimensional active learning.

Wikipedia, Blogs, Tumbler and various online groups available online can be used as part of ICT which is helpful for collaborative learning and sharing of resources. Classroom learning and teaching has now gone a long way away from regular teaching experience. Blogs, Wikis, Module, Word press etc., are some of the sites which promote teaching-learning process. Education in 21st century needs to be looked at with paradigm shifts and learners have ease, convenience and active orientation towards learning.

A mobile phone can also be used in support of teaching-learning process with the purposive interest of being the easiest and fastest tool for communication. There are many websites which provide the facility to create groups of numbers of your choice for sending SMS in bulk. This paper looks into the possibilities of getting important information to be shared with the learners' group through the mobile device. The objective of presenting this paper is to bring to light the various ways in which to design one's own android application as per requirement for supporting the teaching-learning process and hence through the use of technology help the learning process not only in English but also in any subject/discipline.

To cope with technological shifts in the teaching-learning process teachers can design their own Android application for a language class with suitable QR (Quick Response) codes. Such codes can be scanned with QR Code to enable the launch and installation on an android phone. This is somewhat similar to what we create on a Wiki page. Information can be edited and added at any point of time. Teachers can update their profile, course details, latest notices, assignments, videos, pictures and reference links etc on this application like a Wiki page. Students can access all kinds of updates and information made by the teacher from time to time with their mobiles as quickly as they can send messages.

Appsbar.com and Wiki pages are websites which are available free of cost and this feature is useful for users to register and create their own application. It would immediately generate a QR (Quick Response) code or a User ID to launch this application. Students too can generate their own responses and add information and even put up queries for future answers by teachers.

CONCLUSION:

The creation and use of such application for teaching English or any other subject can add new technological dimension to the teaching-learning process. Such applications allow one to share resources and make it possible for learners to reach out for information quite easily going beyond the classroom but yet with ease and comfort. The technological demands made by the learning process are quite easily catered to by making the subject accessible and learner centered.

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