



ICEPTLELL-2024



## CHANGING ROLE OF TRADITIONAL TEACHER TO TECHNOPHILE – WITH THE HELP OF ICT TOOLS

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### ABSTRACT



As change is inevitable in every aspect of life so is in the educational sector. The traditional methods which have been followed by the ancient teachers have been changed to a greater extent. In the present century we have witnessed an unprecedented change in the educational sector. With the advent of Covid-19 Pandemic the world has come to a standstill in all aspects of life. The most effected was educational system. On the verge of this situation, educationists figured out a way to engage children in the studies with the help of ICT tools.

ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) is now an integrated part of our education system for both students and teachers. Through ICT simple techniques like displaying images in the form of PPT will make the work easy, the explanation part of English language, Vocabulary and other language exercises. Students comprehend grammar part, involve in interaction session and make the lesson enjoyable. Students improve concentration by watching and learning, which is more effective compared to hearing and learning technique. That is the reason why the English Laboratories were introduced in schools and colleges.

Hence, I intend to present here, the unavoidable and inescapable place where they need to become tech savvy. I herewith attempt to highlight the challenges and difficulties that a teacher would encounter in the course of becoming digitally proficient and the importance of ICT. They have to get acquainted with the usage of ITC tools such as web based learning, audio conferencing, videoconferencing, computer mediated discussions etc. English language learning apps, interactive whiteboards are very much in use in the course of teaching and learning.

So, English Language can be easily taught by the help of ICT tools which can replace the traditional pedagogical practices and focus on the content of what is being discussed or displayed.

**Keywords:** *Technophile, Traditional, ICT, Integration.*

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Proceeding of Two-Day International Conference on "Emerging Practices in Teaching - Learning of English Language and Literature: A Journey from Theory to Praxis." (ICEPTLELL-2024) on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024, Govt. City College, Hyderabad.

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## INTRODUCTION

The education sector has undergone significant transformations with the advent of Covid-19, embracing remote learning and digital platforms to adapt to the challenges posed by the pandemic. The mindset of teachers during this phase of pandemic was varied, with many adapting resiliently to online teaching, while others faced challenges adjusting to the new normal in education. Their dedication to ensure continuity in learning for their students was noteworthy. The various challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic includes adapting to online teaching method, navigating technological issues and addressing disparities in students' access to resources and connectivity, embracing technology, attending professional development, collaborating with colleagues, and creatively adapting their teaching methods to engage students effectively in various learning environments. Teachers adapted to ICT (Information and Communication Technology) in schools by integrating online tools, platforms, and digital resources into their teaching methods. This included using video conferencing for classes, creating digital learning material, and leveraging educational apps to enhance the overall learning experience.

In the realm of education, ICT has brought about a paradigm shift. Traditional classrooms are evolving into digital leaning environments, where students have access to a wealth of online resources, interactive tools, and virtual learning platforms. E learning had democratized education, breaking down geographical constraints and providing learning opportunities to individual around the world.

English teachers in India have their work cut out for them. The onus is on them to make the students proficient in the language with the meager resources available to them. In today's globally interconnected technological landscape, the English language serves as a crucial tool for economic growth and communication.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Dr.S.M.Tariq Zafar focused on the growing use of emerging methods of modern educational technologies, a powerful tool which facilitates all education participants and develops advance relationship between educators and students. Stapes, Pugach and Himes (2005) recommended that strategic planning is required and understanding of particular hardware and software related to the curriculum, teacher training sessions are indispensable to supporting the curriculum with technology integration. Jo.Shan Fu (2013) touched upon the merits of ICT integration in schools, barriers or challenges encountered and the importance of school culture in the use of ICT integration. D. Amutha highlighted on the dynamic changes revolutionized by the integration of ICT in education system and the need for investing on ICT infrastructure in different cameos of our schools with an objective of enhanced learning environment.

## NEED FOR THE STUDY

With the development of learning technologies in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century education system has changed rapidly. This is due to the capability of technology to provide a proactive, easy access and comprehensive teaching and learning environment. Nowadays Ministry of education in all over the world has



provide a lot of facilities and training in order to enhance the use of advanced technologies in the countries teaching and learning process. A high budget has been placed in order to provide the equipment needed by teachers to improve the education system. Despite all the efforts, most of the countries are facing similar problem whereby the teachers are not maximizing the usage of the technology provided. (Albirini, 2006) This issue is of grave concern, considering previous research finding that highlight the positive impact of ICT usage on students' achievement.

Numerous researchers have undertaken efforts to analyze the factors influencing teachers' acceptance of ICT in classrooms. It is evident that teachers' beliefs serve as a significant barrier to successful implementation, as they play a pivotal role in driving changes in their teaching learning processes. Additionally, existing research indicates a strong correlation between teachers' beliefs and the actual use of ICT into pedagogy, which has the potential to enhance the students' achievement, creativity, and critical thinking skills.

The transformation of a traditional teacher into a technophile involves a process of embracing and integrating technology into their teaching practices. Here are key steps in this transformation.

- **Professional Development:** Teachers need access to ongoing professional development opportunities focused on technology integration. Workshops, training sessions, and courses can provide them with the skill and confidence to use digital tools effectively in the classroom
- **Curiosity and Open-mindedness:** A willingness to explore and experiment with technology is essential. Embracing a mindset of curiosity and open mindedness enables teachers to overcome initial hesitations and discover the potential benefits of incorporating technology into their teaching methods.
- **Peer Collaboration:** Collaborating with colleagues who are already comfortable with technology can be beneficial. Peer learning fosters an environment where teachers can share experiences, strategies, and tips for successful technology integration.
- **Start Small:** introducing technology gradually can be less overwhelming. Teachers can begin with simple tools or application and gradually incorporate more complex technologies as they become more comfortable and proficient.
- **Student engagement:** Recognizing the appeal of technology for students can motivate teachers to integrate it into their lessons. Interactive and multimedia elements can enhance student engagement, making the learning experience more dynamic and appealing.
- **Alignment with Learning Objectives:** Ensure that technology aligns with educational goals and enhances learning outcomes is crucial. Teachers should focus on how technology can support and complement their existing teaching methods rather than viewing it as a separate entity.
- **Feedback and Reflection:** Regularly seeking feedback from students and colleagues and reflecting on the impact of technology on teaching practices can guide adjustments and improvements. This iterative process contributes



to continuous improvement in integrating technology effectively.

- Stay informed: Given the rapid evolution of technology, staying informed about new tools, trends, and best practices is essential. Following educational technology blogs, attending conferences, and participating in online communities can help teachers stay up-to-date.
- Supportive Leadership: Leadership within educational institutions plays a crucial role in fostering a technology-friendly environment. Supportive administrators can provide resources, encouragement, and a conducive atmosphere for teachers to embrace technology.
- Embrace Lifelong Learning: Becoming a technophile is an ongoing journey. Teachers should adopt a mindset of lifelong learning, staying flexible and adaptive as technology continues to evolve, ensuring they remain effective educators in a digital age.

## CHALLENGES

Several challenges accompany the integration of information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the education sector.

- Digital Divide: Disparities in access to technology and the internet create a digital divide, where some students have better access to ICT tools than others. This inequity can hinder the effectiveness of technology-based learning initiatives.
- Infrastructure and Resource Constraints: Many educational institutions, particularly in developing regions, face challenges in acquiring and maintaining the necessary technological infrastructure. Limited resources can impede the

implementation of ICT initiatives, affecting both hardware and software components.

- Teacher Training and Digital Literacy: Adequate training for teachers in utilizing ICT tools effectively is often lacking. Many educators struggle with incorporating technology into their teaching methods due to a lack of digital literacy and professional development opportunities.
- Content Quality and Relevance: the abundance of digital content does not always guarantee its quality or relevance to the curriculum. Ensuring that educational technology aligns with curriculum goals and standards is crucial for meaningful integration.
- Data Security and Privacy Concerns: The collection and storage of student data raise concerns about privacy and security. Educational institutions must establish robust policies and security measures to safeguard sensitive information and comply with privacy regulations.
- Costs and Sustainability: implementing and sustaining ICT infrastructure can be expensive. Schools and educational systems need to allocate funds for hardware, software, maintenance, and ongoing updates, which can strain already limited budgets.
- Pedagogical integration: Successful integration of ICT requires thoughtful incorporation into pedagogical approaches. Simply introducing technology without aligning it with educational goals may result in underutilization or ineffective implementation.
- Resistance to change: some educators, administrators, and parents may resist the adoption of ICT due to a fear of change or concerns about its impact on traditional teaching methods. Overcoming resistance and fostering a positive attitude towards technology is crucial for successful integration.



Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach involving policy development, investment in teacher training, infrastructure development, and a commitment to bridging the digital divide to ensure equitable access to educational opportunities

Integration information and Communication Technology (ICT) with English teachers can have various objectives aimed at enhancing the overall teaching and learning experience. Here are some key objectives:

- Enhance Digital Literacy skills: Equip English teachers with the necessary digital literacy skills to effectively navigate and utilize a range of ICT tools, including online platforms, educational software, and multimedia resources.
- Improve Teaching Efficiency: Streamline administrative tasks, lesson planning, and grading processes through the integration of ICT tools, allowing English teachers to focus more on interactive and student-centered teaching methods.
- Diversify Teaching Strategies: Encourage the exploration and integration of diverse teaching strategies made possible by ICT. This includes incorporating multimedia elements, interactive presentations, and online collaborative activities to cater to different learning styles.
- Encourage Collaborative Learning: foster a collaborative learning environment by integrating ICT tools that facilitate group projects, online discussions, and peer collaboration. This helps students develop communication and teamwork skill in an English context.

- Prepare students for Digital communication: Integrate digital communication tools to prepare students for real-world language use. This includes email etiquette, online collaboration, and effective communication in digital platforms, aligning English education with the demands of the digital age.

## CONCLUSION

The purpose of this study is to emphasize the following points to be addressed by traditional English teacher to evolve into a technophile.

Highlighting Educational Evolution, Promoting Technology integration, Empowering Educators, Addressing Challenges, Stimulating professional growth, Emphasizing Student-Centric Learning, Connecting Education and Real World Skills, Encouraging Adaptability, Showcasing Best Practices, Advocating for Educational Transformation.

By addressing these purposes, the writing aims to contribute to the ongoing dialogue about the intersection of technology and education, emphasizing the importance of adapting teaching approaches to meet the needs of contemporary learning.

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