

E- CONTENT: A CATALYST FOR ENGLISH LEARNER, TEACHER AND CURRICULUM

* S.Lenin & Dr. A. Veliappan

* Research Scholar,

**Asst. Professor, Department of Education,
Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli.

ABSTRACT

English language is considered as the International language. In India it is the second language which skilled users of the language consider prestigious. Teaching and learning of this language is a task which seems to be a nightmare most of the time. Systematic means of teaching and learning this language helps to acquire this language with ease. One of such means to make teaching and learning English easy is e-content. E-content materials effectively influence language acquisition. It paves way for innovative thinking, creativity, sound reasoning and effective communication skills in English. E-content acts as a catalyst for English learner, teacher and curriculum. It helps an English learner to enhance creativity and it inspires the learner. It supports the learner in both synchronous and asynchronous training. For a teacher it motivates creativity and helps in the act of collaborative teaching and thereby enhances the quality of teaching. In terms of curriculum e-content acts as an agent of variety with various activities and provides opportunity to learn and develop communication ability in English.

INTRODUCTION

With a goal to improve the quality of teaching practices and learning activities e-content is infused in the education system. The e-content materials are used in the English classroom with computers and projectors. The government has provided multimedia facilities and aim at creating more multimedia classrooms across the country which paves the way to use the prepared e-content materials effectively especially enhancing the language abilities. The animated flash based multimedia E-content has enriched the English learner, teacher and the curriculum making them more effective with communication practice, activities and assessment. E- content if used creatively, can make a big difference in the way students learn and can help the English teachers with innovative thinking, creativity, sound reasoning and effective communication. E-content acts as an effective supporter for the English learner, teacher and also brings improvement in the English language curriculum. This paper is an attempt made to bring out a glance by which e-content helps the learner, teacher and curriculum.

According to Philip. L.Hosford “Education is the sum total of learning with both individual and social learning, when one aspect interacts with another in the society, learning gets meaningful”. Therefore it is necessary to study the interaction among the learner, teacher and curriculum with the help of ICT for the emerging trend in higher education. E- content is a part of ICT which helps to enrich the English learner, teacher and curriculum and thereby helps to enhance the learner and teacher with much learning.

i) E-CONTENT AS A CATALYST FOR THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER

The end result of any teaching is to bring about behavioral change i.e., learning. This learning takes place in and outside a class room environment. Learning that takes place inside a class room is of formal setup with well planned systematic acts within the purview of the curriculum that has been designed for the educational programme. Education in the 21st century is called learner centric where the entire programme revolves around the learner. The learners are one among the stakeholders in the field of education today.

E-content is a learner centered model. It is a combination of text, graphic art, sound, animation and video delivered to the learner with the help of a computer or other electronic means. It is richly presented with sensation. When an English teacher weaves together the sensual elements of E- content, dazzling pictures and animations, engaging sounds, compelling video clips and raw textual information, E- content excites the eyes and ears of the English learner along with the intellectual aspects of the learner. This E-content acts as a catalyst for the English learner by the following means:

a) Enhances Creativity

E-content fosters the creativity of the English learner by helping the learner to produce something new with novelty, especially poems, novels and other literary genres with their creative sense. Creativity as a natural endowment needs stimulation and nourishment. Most of their talents, if not given proper training with the help of education and opportunities for creative expression, will result in wastage. By using E-content the English language learner satisfactorily acquires stimulation and nourishment of their abilities thereby paving a way for infusing their creativity. It helps the English language learner to develop the ability to respond in English and encourages the ability of acquiring originality in speech. It also removes the hesitation and fear of speaking in English.

As a learner knows that creativity cannot be fostered through closed thinking and it must have complete freedom with a wide range of expression, E-content acts as a tool to satisfy the English learner to promote creativity in oneself.

b) Inspires the English Learner

Generally, inspiration means taking in of breath. Here inspiration is the infusion inside the mind or soul. Inspiration takes place through several ways. For a language student with aestheticism, he gets inspiration of love, inspiration of nature or inspiration of substance. i.e. If inspiration occurs in response to a feeling for someone / something possibly that inspiration is of love and if inspiration occurs of trees, brooks, the sky, birds and other flora and fauna i.e. inspiration of nature and if inspiration occurs by the use of substances like-alcohol, drugs, herbs, etc then it is inspiration through substances. For eg: S.T. Coleridge was inspired or influenced by taking Opium, Edgar Allen Poe the English writer was inspired by absinthe, Allen Ginsberg by LSD and Peyote by cocaine and heroin. Man acquires inspiration by various means at every part of life but generally the mind of the learner gets inspired by the woven combinations of text, graphic art, sound, animation and video elements that are present in E-content. The software, the messages and the content presented as a whole inspires the learner. Hence E-content acts as a catalyst for English language learners.

c) Using E-content support in both synchronous and asynchronous training

If one takes it as synchronous training then it is the real-time training. It resembles a meeting or face to face classroom teaching / training of English language. In that all the learners go through the course at the same time. It motivates mass education. When taken as asynchronous training it is not dependent on time or location. This type of training is of self study or instructor led course. Many of the online courses offered by colleges and universities are of this mode. E-content helps to prepare and practice language skills in the synchronous mode.

ii) E-CONTENT AS A CATALYST FOR THE ENGLISH TEACHER

An assistance of any type that facilitates learning is called teaching. Nothing can replace the profession of teaching. The process of teaching involves human factors which increasingly consider the psychological aspects of the learner. When we are taking the role of teacher from Gurukula system of education i.e. from Vedic period, teacher was a catalyst for the learner and teacher was respected and worshipped like anything. Till the 20th century the entire education process revolved around the teacher which is teacher-centric education. The society

believed that the teacher knew everything and he could teach only correct information to the next generation. Later recently the teacher's role was considered as facilitator and now the role has become navigator and guide because of the emergence of latest trends like E-content, etc in ICT. A recent quote says that teacher and technology give a complete teacher and on the other hand teacher minus technology makes the teacher zero i.e. an utter failure. Hence the emerging trends like E-content help as a support for the English teacher and acts as a catalyst for the teacher to pursue their duties.

In an English language class room E-content is vital for a teacher in the following ways:

i) Values creative thinking. ii) Helps the English teacher to make children more sensitive to environmental stimuli. iii) Teaches how to test each idea systematically. iv) Helps to develop new ideas in English. v) Teaches the students to value their creative thinking. vi) Develops a creative classroom environment. vii) Creates necessity for creative thinking. viii) Provides resources for working out ideas in English. ix) Develops constructive criticism, not just criticism. x) Develops adventurous and spirited English teachers. xi) Student's attention is drawn towards E-content and retention of observed event is ensured to be easier. xii) Teacher puts the subject matter in logical order.

The original E-content materials are on CD-ROM or DVD, web based courses, etc. This is developed by the teacher with the help of content development specialists such as instructional designers, script writers, audio and video production specialists, multimedia course authors and web developers. Today there are plenty of instructional designers and content developers in primary, secondary schools and even in universities. E-content helps a language teacher in the following ways:

1) E-content motivates teaching

E-content materials like videos, multimedia computer software that combines text, sound and colorful moving images can be used to provide authentic content that will engage the students to understand well. Interactive radio and other contents help to make use of sound effects, songs, dramatization, comic skills and other performances which really help to promote acquisition of language. The teacher can very well bring an artificial set up with the aim of providing first hand experience in sharing the knowledge of a language.

2) E-content motivates collaborative teaching

Collaborative teaching combines and co-operates among teachers, students and experts in sharing their ideas. To promote communicative skills a variety of language models are used in E-content with the motive of enhancing the language skills.

3) E-content leads to creative teaching

E- content supported teaching always promotes the manipulation of existing information and leads to creation of some views as new which also aims at helping the students to be creative thinkers.

4) E-content promotes quality in teaching

The impact of E-content raises the quality in teaching English. By using E-content students understand the lessons better and so the students develop a real passion for learning English which leads to overcome the language learning difficulties. This also leads the way for E-content to transform it from a learning environment to learner centered environment.

5) Reaches a large mass of audience

E-content helps to expand beyond the physical limits and a maximum number of audience. It has helped learner as a neutral mediator without any discrimination. Even an English class of five hundred students can be dealt with E-content effectively leading to mass education.

iii) E-CONTENT AS A CATALYST FOR ENGLISH CURRICULUM

Traditional educational systems tend to rely on curricula that were developed at the beginning of industrial revolution and are now disconnected from the relation of the job market. E-content has the potential to bring the products of the best English teachers to classrooms from anywhere in the world. E-content helps to enrich the curriculum in the following ways.

1) E-content as an agent of variety

Through E-content there is a possibility of providing variety in the curriculum. The modules of E-content comprises of the concepts and skills of the curriculum. The students need to master each module thereby leading from the low level to more complex level.

2) Enriches language Curriculum with activities

E-content enriches the curriculum with varieties of activities. There is a provision to include movies, videos, audio technology and computer animations that bring sound and movement to static English textbook lessons. This variety in the curriculum makes the learner be enthusiastic and optimistic towards the English curriculum.

3) Ensures opportunity to learn, communicate and develop knowledge in English

E-content enriches the curriculum by providing opportunities for programmes which provide a rich experience to learn, to empower the learner with strong communication skills and also to provide knowledge of concepts and various language skills. The English curriculum of the students and teachers is rich with strategies for presenting subject matter and pedagogy.

CONCLUSION

This paper thus tries to bring out how E-content serves as a catalyst for an English learner, teacher and curriculum. It is revealed that the quality of E-content is in its content and delivery. Apart from the key theme of the paper it is understandable that there are also few pitfalls in using E-content, such as boring slides, monotonous speeches and also little opportunity for interaction at times.

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