

## **CAL PROJECT TO TEACH ENGLISH IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS OF GUJARAT**

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### **Abstract**

A good command over English language has always been considered as an effective tool for empowerment. Contrary to the traditional mode of teaching and learning, the multi-media resources have been playing very crucial role in every sphere of Education including English Language Teaching and Learning. The present research draws on an in-depth study of impact of Computer Assisted Language Learning to teach English language at one of the Primary Schools of Gujarat, India. It aims at providing a better understanding of the possible impact of electronic resources on teaching and learning of English Language. The article discusses about CAL (Computer Aided Learning) project in Government Primary Schools of Anand District, Gujarat, India and The importance of CAL in terms of teaching learning of English language at Primary Level.

**Keywords:** Computer Aided Learning (CAL), Empower, Multi-media resources, English Language Teaching-Learning

### **Introduction:**

Many teachers in India are facing challenges of teaching English to students who have poor heritage of English language. To make them proficient in English has become the medium of all relevant social interactions and ability to use English effectively is considered an absolute essential for honorable existence. Multi-media Tools appear in increasing numbers in classrooms of academic institutions, questions arise continuously to be asked about the effectiveness of these tools in supporting teaching and learning. Several questions arose in our mind like; what is the importance of multi-media tools? Why are they important for teachers as well as students? How teachers can use multi-media tools to improve knowledge of English language among the students of rural area? What is the difference between education that is given without technical resources and with the technical resources? The small investigation provided the answers of our questions. The research aims to investigate the role of multi-media tools through CAL in the class-rooms and their use as a weapon for English empowerment.

### **CAL TOOLS IN CLASS-ROOM:**

CAL tools include digital language lab, computer lab, audio-visual aids, internet, projector, tape and video recorder, CDs, educational software etc. All these have the potential to transform education system and teaching-learning methods. These digital tools provide teachers with new

ways to deliver teaching; to work in a new, interesting and exciting ways; to make classroom interactive and innovative; to open new window for the students to access knowledge of entire world. Such an innovative teaching has opened new horizons of teaching and learning for teachers and learners respectively. Teacher can use multi-media resources to introduce new subjects and teaching materials in a new and effective manner, ultimately developing learners' level of understanding and achieving desired outcome more easily and successfully in comparison to adopting traditional modes of delivering and offering teaching material. Rather than relying upon reading textbooks, teacher can find latest information and resources on a specific topic and introduce them in their classroom through a variety of mediums. Students access internet to understand the meanings of critical terms and concepts, examining new definitions and theories and discovering new knowledge and information. The Internet and other digital resources provide students and teachers with the means to reach out to the world because the students can do research that was once tedious and required continuous visit to the library (Tripathi.2002). CAL tools and language teaching have been walking hand in hand for a long time. Digital resources and English language are still a source of fear and insecurity for many teachers as well as students despite the latest advances applicable to language teaching such as specialized websites, weblogs, wikis, language teaching methodology, audio-video aids, e-library and so on. Although many countries including India have done institutional efforts to modernize their classroom by spending large amount in the technology to teach English language, a wide range of changes have been found in teaching English language using multi-media resources and without multi-media resources. However in majority of the cases the output is positive and inspirational.

#### **Implementation of CAL across 5920 Schools in Gujarat (IL&FS Education, 2013):**

IL&FS Education utilizes educational technology to enhance outreach and improve the quality of education. It leverages the Computer Aided Learning (CAL) scheme under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and integrates the latest in technology with learning and training needs at primary level education of the state. CAL project provided highly digital equipments to teacher to sharpen teaching-learning process at primary education of the Gujarat. The details equipments are Installation and Supply of Hardware including 10 Computers, UPS for Power Backup, One server, Printer and Scanner, Networking & Electrification and Earthing, Development of Educational Applications based on LINUX , Monitoring of project through Zonal and district level coordinators by the company for smooth functioning of the project. The CAL programme aims at providing holistic education with the help of technology which will retain students in the school and improves the quality of teaching process. The project creates awareness towards Information Technology and their uses among the students of primary level. The education involving IT will lead towards productive outcome. (WRC & ELETS,2013).

#### **Use of CAL tools in teaching of English by English teacher:**

CAL tools provided by the government include Computer Laboratory, Smart TV, Education CDs, Music System, Tape Recorder and Printers. These are important tools in executing language games, Group Activities, Writing Tasks, Watching and listening English poems and rhymes, Showing Documentary movies and videos of related lessons, preparing Lesson plans, Language Games, Vocabulary Development, Grammar teaching, Listening English poems, prayers, songs, rhymes and practicing, Recording students speeches and working on

pronunciation, Getting prints of various language activities and exercises to improve English and so on.

### **Benefits of CAL:**

Teachers see benefits from CAL. They are positive about using these tools to teach English both for their students and for themselves as educators. Teaching-learning process of English language becomes more effective result oriented and successful if it is implemented through CAL. If there are sufficient technical resources in the school and if they are used effectively by the efficient teacher, it can generate positive impact on English language teaching and learning in the classroom of even rural region. Content teaching through using Digital resources increases students' level of interest, motivation and concentration. CAL helps students to develop their personality and way of living life more efficiently than the traditional mode of teaching i.e. oral narration method.

### **Conclusion:**

A good command over English language is all time high demand skills in the present scenario of 21<sup>st</sup> century developing India. It is also considered a global language and an inevitable, pre-requisite condition for development in this cut throat competitions of the economies and professional world of developing countries. It is the only means to communicate and transact worldwide. The role of technology in making English language teaching and learning possible is the most crucial one. Using multi-media tools in schools, colleges, at home and in societies in general, has resulted in positive impact and ease in teaching learning process being very effective and powerful tool in causing paradigm shift in pedagogy. Multi-media tools not just make teaching and learning interesting and easy but also help in developing critical thinking, inquiry based learning and team-work in the case of both teachers and students while engaging in teaching and learning tasks. The dream of Global India can only be fulfilled by making immense and effective use of technology so as to empower English language of its citizens especially young learners.

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