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EMERGING TEACHING METHODOLOGY PRACTISED FOR ENGINEERING AND NON-  
ENGINEERING STUDENTS

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**ABSTRACT**

The effective usage of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in teaching, learning process has become necessitous in this era of technology. It is also being supported by the Government of India's "Digital India" Project. ICT has emerged as a third hand or seventh sense of every common man. This research paper inks the practical approaches of using ICT in English Language teaching and learning classrooms. It proves that ICT could be used in English Language classes of both engineering and non-engineering classes to enrich the students' attention in learning the second language effortlessly related to the designed outcome of the Course.

**KEYWORDS:** technology, communication, ICT, Digital India, Motor Skills, language etc.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Periyar Maniammai University is a Deemed University, erstwhile known as Periyar Maniammai Institute of Science & Technology for Women, located in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, India. It provides the state-of-the-art facility to the students. It offers Courses for Engineering and Non-Engineering students. The first author of this research paper shares her teaching methodology using ICT through this article. This research paper also spotlights the various ICT Tools used for engineering and non-engineering students handled by the first author.

**OUTCOME BASED EDUCATION**

Outcome Based Education is a new Educational System. It is popularly called as OBE. It promotes the learning capacity of the students to attain the Course Outcomes(Cos) designed for each and every Course of the Curriculum and Syllabi. It is totally different from the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) of Examination System which was conducted as three Phase of Examinations for a Semester, whereas OBE has two assessments as Formative and Summative. Formative Assessment deals with CA 1(Written Exam), CA 2(Written Exam) and CA3 (CIA Components). All the components of the Course might have been matched with atleast a Course Outcome.

The designed COs of the Syllabi assure Students, Staff and Stakeholders of the institution that objectives of the Course taught are attained at the end of the Semester. The attainment percent of COs may be different from one another. The students are given second opportunities to upgrade their Formative Assessment marks which may facilitate them to secure good marks in Summative Assessment. OBE was brought in to practice in PMU since 2015 – 2016 academic year onwards.

#### **ENGLISH CURRICULUM**

The Curriculum and Syllabi for engineering and non-engineering students were revised in the academic years 2015 – 2016 and 2016 – 2017 related with OBE. For Engineering students, the Department of English offers Six Courses such as Study Skills & Language Lab, Speech Communication, Interpersonal Communication, Technical Communication (for Engineering) & Technical Writing & Language Lab (for B.Com), Career Development Skills, Business Communication. All the courses have a Course Outcome for each and every units of the Syllabi.

This research paper deals with the ICT tools used for the Courses such as Speech Communication, Study Skills & Language Lab, Technical Communication, Interpersonal Communication, Technical Writing & Language Lab.

#### **WHY DO ICT IN ELT CLASSES?**

This paper throws in various ICT tools which could be used for English Language Teaching by the Language teachers. Most of the people have their own opinions that ICT is not meant for language teachers which could not be used and managed effectively by them for engineering and non-engineering students. It is proven through this research that ICT could be used for teaching, learning and evaluation processes.

The language teachers need not to think that utilizing ICT tools is possible only in private colleges, which is never possible in Government Colleges. In the age of technowledge, everything is possible to transit the traditional teaching methodologies which created lack of interest, did not meet the real life applications of the Syllabi and challenges await in the life of students' career.

The students of all the colleges own their own Smart Phones or laptops with Bluetooth, hotspot facilities to update their knowledge about their Curriculum and Syllabi. They are not in the age of faculty to come to class and teach everything like spoon feeding. When they are given Syllabus, they start surfing e-contents, refer materials and assess their faculty whether they bring out any new teaching methodologies instead of merely reading the books and delivering the same in the classes. This kind of teaching is not welcomed by the present students.

Students have started rising questions like 'Why should we learn this Course / Subject?, Where are we going to apply it in our Career?, What do we learn for our Career from this Syllabus?' etc. In Government Colleges, students may not have this kind of awareness, but they may not deny the above questions if they are given any more opportunities to provide feedback about their Syllabus of each and every Course.

#### **LIST OF ICT TOOLS**

The following is the list of ICT tools which are open sources practised in Periyar Maniammai University for engineering and non-engineering students. Students hesitated to work with them in the beginning. Later, the scenario got changed. They are of the opinion that using ICT tools help them to learn a lot of good things when they spend their timings in working with them. They also agree that they work with the applications oriented teaching augments their thinking skills and self-confidence.

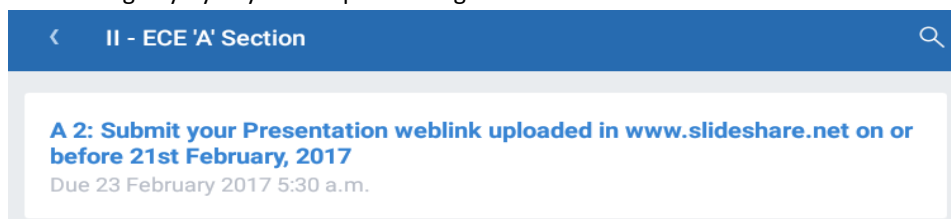
The following is the list of ICT tools used for engineering students to teach, to upgrade and assess the knowledge of the students.

##### **A) Professional PowerPoint Templates & Websites**

The Course 'Technical Communication' has a topic 'How to Prepare for your Presentation?' in their Syllabus. Students were taught the guidelines to follow while preparing professional presentations. They were given an assignment to prepare a PowerPoint Presentation which is either any of the common topics or related to their core field of study. They were given a condition that their PowerPoint Presentation should be simple, clear, comprehensive to understand by the common people too.

In the beginning, they hesitated. They were supported with the Professional PowerPoint Templates which were bought and suggested to use them and upload their presentation in a website by creating an

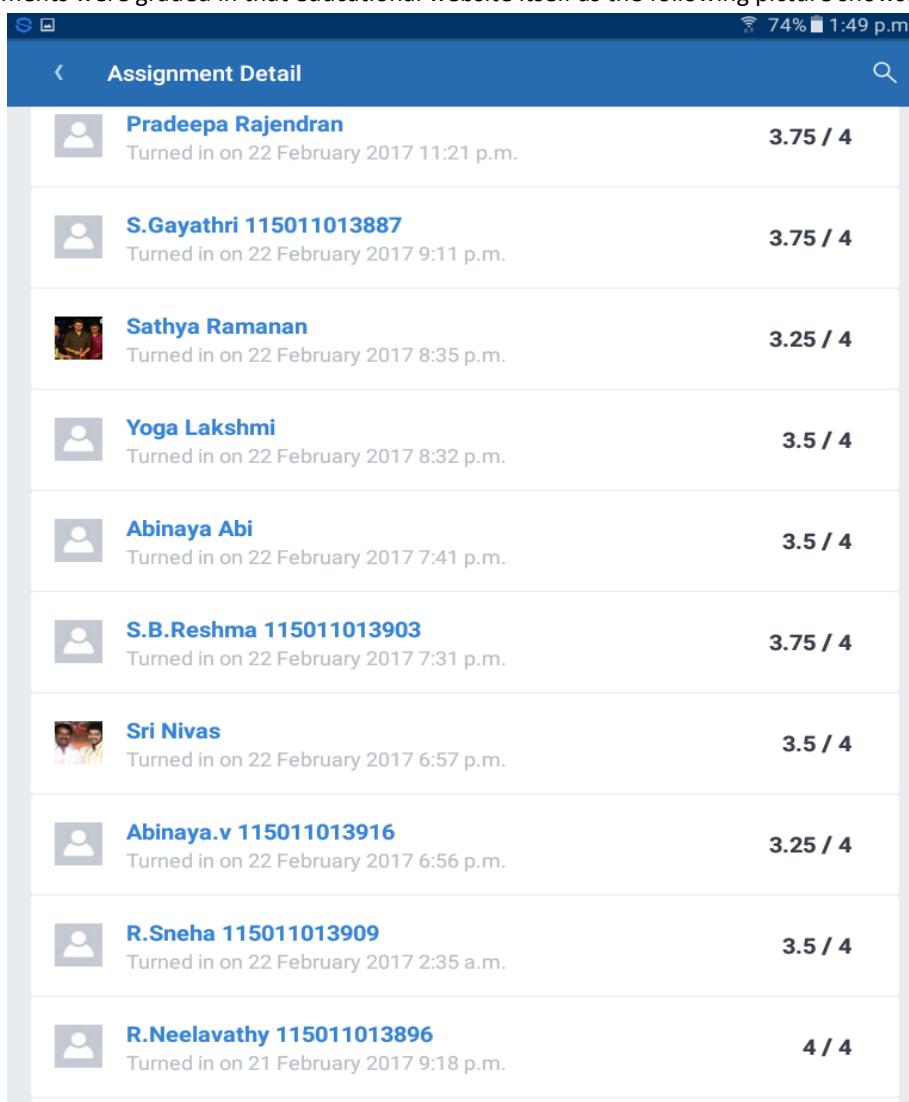
account for them and upload their presentations in [www.slideshare.net](http://www.slideshare.net). They were informed to share the weblink of their presentation in an educational platform, [www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com) similarly after joining a common group created for their class. Ninety percent of the students submitted their assignments on time using professional powerpoint templates and felt excited after checking the number of views for their presentation was keep on increasing day by day. A sample of it is given below.



The students' submissions of assignments are listed below:

1. <https://www.slideshare.net/AkashPrabhu5/nano-instrumentation-afm-sem>
2. <https://www.slideshare.net/Kavithayenivijayakum/nano-composite-coating-in-ship-building-materials>
3. <https://www.slideshare.net/SuganthyRamamoorthy/nano-fertilizer>

Those assignments were graded in that educational website itself as the following picture shows:



The above picture shows that the ICT tools such as Professional Powerpoint Templates, [www.slideshare.net](http://www.slideshare.net), [www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com) were used for the Course Technical Communication. Students gave their feedback as they were introduced new ICT tools to do this assignment and it enhanced their presentation skills, to own a web blog for themselves which has global viewers of their presentations. The same practise

was followed in Second year B. Tech Electronics and Communication Technology and M. Tech nanotechnology (Integrated).

They shared their happiness as they had improved their Presentation Skills by doing such kind of assignments and they did not expect such type of motivation and innovative teaching methodology from English faculty.

## 2) MOOC Courses

The abbreviation 'MOOC' stands for Massive Open Online Course'. MOOC Courses are becoming popular globally. The courses can be learnt on any topic by any number of candidates of different countries all over the world. When they complete their courses, they need to buy their Certificates for appraisal purposes like promotion, increment etc. The certificates of Course Completion are also accepted by Multi-National Companies during recruitment, for promoting and giving increment to the employees.

The language teacher may also introduce such type of courses related to their Syllabus for their students. To do so, they no need to work beyond their working hours. Students may also be motivated to learn free courses as much as possible by completing MOOC Courses.

The most common websites which offer MOOC Courses is:

S. No.	Website
1.	<a href="http://www.coursera.org">www.coursera.org</a>
2.	<a href="http://www.futurelearn.com">www.futurelearn.com</a>
3.	<a href="http://www.edx.org">www.edx.org</a>
4.	<a href="http://www.udemy.com">www.udemy.com</a>
5.	<a href="http://www.iitbombayx.in">www.iitbombayx.in</a>

Under the guidance of the first author of this research paper, 226 students, of engineering and non-engineering, have completed their MOOC Courses in [www.udemy.com](http://www.udemy.com) during the academic year 2016 – 2017. Educational App is also available for 'Udemy'. These Courses are really supporting the knowledge gained by the students in the classroom with the course content of the MOOC Course students learn. This sort of teaching enriches the students' comprehension level about the Course.

Students were suggested to do any one of the MOOC Courses and asked to share their knowledge with their peers in the class for the Course 'Speech Communication, Interpersonal Communication and Technical Communication'. They were suggested to do a free course and submit their Course Completion Certificate for the same.

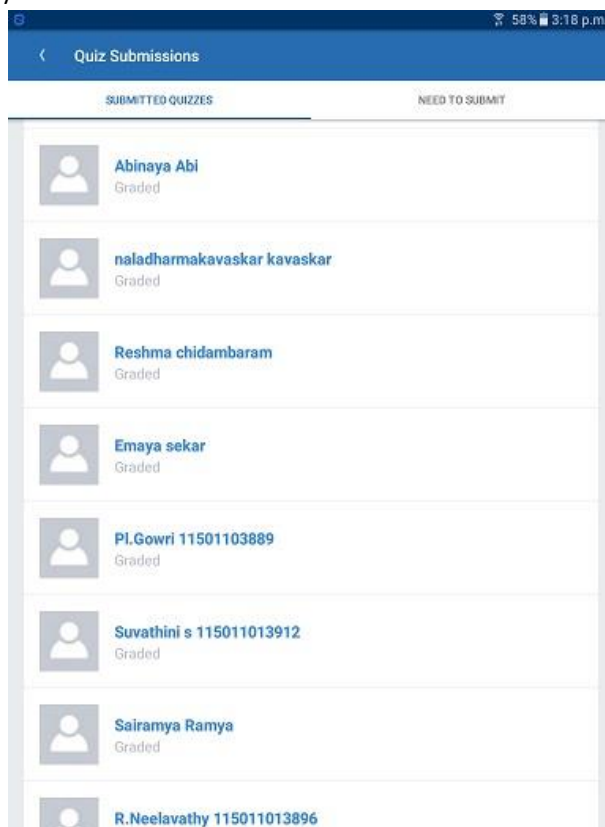


The above Certificate of Completion has the details of the student's name, Course name, date and year of Completion of the Course and the instructor's name. It also provides weblink of e-Certificate with its 'url' link too. Even though a student happens to miss this Certificate, it can be recovered from the 'url' again and again. These certificates are considered as add-ons in the Personal Profile of either engineering or non-engineering student.

### 3) EDMODO APP

Edmodo is an education platform which can be used by a teacher, a student and a parent by creating a separate group of each and every class to share e-content materials, reference sources, announce Assignments, conduct quiz tests and polls etc.

A sample quiz completed by the students for ‘Technical Communication’ in Edmodo is given below:



The teacher has to post the questions for quiz test with due date of completion. Students can attend this quiz from their own place by accessing their own account since an intimation mail is also being sent to all the students of the class by Edmodo. Students who do not attend the classes no need to lose their marks and worry for the same since this opportunity highly helps them to attend the test and getting graded for the same.

### 4) MICROSOFT OFFICE WORD DOCUMENT AND SLIDESHARE.NET

The non-engineering students of first year Commerce Students were given an assignment to prepare ‘definition on abstract its guidelines and a sample outline of a research paper’ and post it in a website [www.slideshare.net](http://www.slideshare.net). They were also given a due date to submit the same. Since most of the students of the class were from rural background, they had not had even email IDs individually. This was the stage, where the faculty had some barriers in extracting work from them and took extra classes for them to complete that assignment during class hours as they needed more guidance to do the assignment technically, but not written assignment.

S. No.	Student’s ID in <a href="http://www.slideshare.net">www.slideshare.net</a>
1.	<a href="http://www.slideshare.net/praveenkumar3984/praveen-1-72124731">http://www.slideshare.net/praveenkumar3984/praveen-1-72124731</a>
2.	<a href="http://www.slideshare.net/RaghulRk1/nraghul-116012153083-assignment-1">http://www.slideshare.net/RaghulRk1/nraghul-116012153083-assignment-1</a>
3.	<a href="http://www.slideshare.net/elaventhando/elaventhando-116012153063-assignment-1">http://www.slideshare.net/elaventhando/elaventhando-116012153063-assignment-1</a>

### 5) REF ME APP

The Courses like “Study Skills, Technical Communication, Technical Writing & Language Lab’ had a topic as ‘Bibliography’. Students were introduced the app ‘RefMe’ to prepare ‘Bibliography and Reference List’. Students showed their mere interest when they applied the theoretical knowledge of preparing

Bibliography practically using an android application in their tablet PCs, they realized the outcome of the course which really facilitates them to apply their knowledge effortlessly in their future professional life.

#### **CONCLUSION**

This research paper has discussed in detail about the various ICT Tools used in English language teaching classes for the students of engineering and non-engineering effortless to meet out the course outcomes in Periyar Maniammai Univeristy. The readers of this paper might use all the above listed ICT tools in their institution also to teach and evaluate the progress of their own students without any difficulties.

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