IMPROVING TEACHERS’ ICT SKILLS: A NECESSITY

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Information Communication Technology (ICT) comprises a range of tools and systems that can be utilized as a tool to help us improve our teaching and assist our pupils to learn better. It includes all types of technology in the classroom that are electrically driven like computers, tape recorders, radio, TV and other non-electrically driven local and indigenous technologies like models, display boards, dioramas, sand tables and the like. The focus should not be on how to teach pupils skills like word processing, spreadsheets, Internet searching etc. Rather the primary focus should be on quality learning and teaching. The secondary focus will be on ways of using ICT as a tool to enhance learning and teaching.

Practitioners nowadays are using ICT in their lessons because it motivates pupils to learn. As teachers, we should aim to provide learning experiences for our pupils that ultimately lead them into the development of skills and attitudes. In addition, it must equip them to become independent lifelong learners, effective collaborators, efficient workers and capable communicators. ICT is a powerful learning tool. In the hands of confident, capable and creative teachers, can greatly enhance many teaching and learning situations.

Ali et al. (Year Uncited) revealed that the use of ICT in the teaching-learning process is a relatively new occurrence and it has been the educational researchers' focus. The effective incorporation of this technology into classroom practices poses a challenge to teachers and school heads. In their study entitled “The Role of ICT to Make Teaching-Learning Effective in Higher Institutions of Learning in Uganda”, revealed that teaching
staff and school heads had a strong desire to integrate ICT into teaching-learning processes. The modernizations that ICT has conveyed in the teaching-learning process include e-learning, e-communication, quick access to information, online student registration, online advertisement, reduced burden of keeping hardcopy, networking with resourceful persons, and the like. However, the presence of all these aspects increased the chance of outstanding integration of ICT in the teaching-learning process. Therefore, the training of teaching staff in the educational issues and school heads in the administration should be increased if teachers and school heads are to be convinced of the value of using ICT in their teaching-learning situations.

Without a doubt, the majority considers that teachers should have knowledge on the use of ICT tools particularly on how to incorporate the use of computers in the process of teaching and learning. Today, computers and other tools have become important parts of one’s education because we are using these in every field. Without the knowledge and skills to manipulate, we will find it hard to perform well in. Knowledge about ICT is certainly a must at this time and improving teachers’ ICT skills in this 21st century is absolutely a necessity.

References: