

Improvement of Skills through the Technology Integrated Learning in English Language

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Abstract: *Now we are thrown into an era of technology, we can't think of a step without technology. For English language learning it is not an exceptional issue. Technology is not a supplementary thing in this modern era rather it is essential and ubiquitous in the English language teaching-learning process. Due to COVID-19 Pandemic teaching- learning situation has taken a different track i.e. it shifts from the traditional path of teaching to technology-integrated teaching. This digital realm of English language learning for the amelioration of skills paved the way to amalgamate with the international arena. Technology- mediated learning can only be flourished and encouraged by the active participation of the teachers as well as the administrators and other authorities. The teacher should not be stuff of content knowledge rather a teacher should have Technological, Pedagogical and Content knowledge. For teaching the English language and inculcate skills technology has a great role, especially since this situation has made it mandatory to use technology conveniently. In the teaching-learning process, there are mainly four skills –reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Listening and reading are known as 'receptive skills' as it focuses on the product of reception by our five senses. The other two skills speaking and writing are known as productive skills. The four types of skills can be acquired the various tools. The present study highlights the various educational technologies to enhance the skills regarding reading, writing, speaking and listening in English Language learning.*

Keywords: Educational Technology; ELT, Improvement of Skills, Technology Integrated Learning

1. Introduction

Now-a-days we are considerably depended on Technology. For English language learning it is technology is utmost need in this pandemic situation. Over the last two decades use of technology in learning overshadowed. With the advancement of science and technology, we have so many options to use technological tools for the improvement of the skills in the English language. Now-a-days use of Technology is as important as to improve the skills and self-directed prompts in their technology pervasive learning (Engelmann et al., 2021). Generally, there are four kinds of skills –reading, speaking, writing, and listening. All these skills can be improved through the technology mediated learning. In the technology abundant era, we have many options to choose in any kind of problem-solving activities. So, the use of technology has been changed from several tools of technology to multiple tools, and now we think only in what way the employment of technology can enhance the skills.

The use of Information and Communication Technology will empower the students to link themselves with the current situations i.e. in their real and practical life that will also improve their social qualities (Tan & Wong, 2020). The use of ICT to enhance learning experience, rather than merely for the delivery of instruction, can generate to become fruitful learning (Hamadi et al., 2021). By improving these skills technology can fulfill the need of Transformative Pedagogy as it incorporate the higher order skills to think, to speak, to read and to write. Transformative Pedagogy shifted the theory or knowledge based learning to skill based learning that can also be regarded as Praxis Pedagogy as it amalgamates the theory and practice in the knowledge domain (Arnold & Mundy, 2020). Learning experiences and pedagogical innovations for can be improved through various technological interventions in English language learning. Technology is not a supplementary thing in this modern era rather it is an essential and ubiquitous in English language teaching learning process.

1.1. Pandemic Situation and the Need of Technology Based Learning

Due to the effect of COVID-19 virus teaching learning system has taken a different path. It had changed the traditional way of teaching to technology integrated learning. Though Teras et al. (2020) challenges the narrative that claims, 'education is broken, and it should and can be fixed with technology', undoubtedly makes the technologization possible. It becomes a new normal way of learning. Face to face teaching learning process has been shifted to online and digital learning. In this unprecedented situations lots of Academic institutions from secondary schools to higher education opted for Online Distance Education(ODE) both in synchronous and asynchronous formats and thereby helps the students to efficient and effective (Abu Talib et al., 2021). For English language teaching, online pedagogy becomes a crucial way of teaching for the improvement of skills. Technology mediated learning environment is now normal learning situation that we couldn't think of before this terrible pandemic situation. Though almost all the secondary schools have smart classroom, but they remain unused for language teaching learning process. It has been popular from 2012 and it emphasized the student-teacher and student-student interaction with five dimensions like resource, environment, enhancement, management and presentation (Yang et al., 2018). Now smart classroom is not only situated in the schools as a physical resource, but also it has to our home as well as in our grip. Smart classroom learning has been changed into the smart home learning.

1.2. Digital Learning and Its Opportunities

From a home learning environment with the help of the mechanic teacher as well as human teacher the English language learning can achieve a high position by inculcating the four skills to the students. All the activities in the English language learning such as reading, writing, speaking, listening, feedback, drill, formative and summative assessment can be executed through technology integration. In this learning situation teacher or the mechanic teacher helps the learner to acquire those language skills. Thereby it fulfills the objectives of critical pedagogy and transformative pedagogy. Learners learn by themselves by using their electronic gadgets and various learning apps and online learning courses. Skill acquisition through technology integrated learning thus providing lots of opportunities to the learners for the up-gradation of their understanding and it leads them to a digital realm of learning if one deals with this digital learning environment positively (Nadkarni & Prugl, 2020).

- Digital learning saves time as well as money
- Digital material is accessible anywhere and anytime
- Digitized content can be learned at one's own pace
- Digital learning helps the learner to be updated
- Digital learning supports a learner to be acquainted with the global knowledge

This digital realm of English language learning for the amelioration of skills paved the way to amalgamate with the international arena. Moreover, it helps the learners to mix up with the global knowledge society and they can broaden their knowledge and skills to compete globally and can enlighten themselves collectively. Digitalization is two dimensional because it improves the skills individually and on the other hand in groups. Technology not only helps the learner to learn in an isolated manner one helps to maintain a link with others. So, the digital era facilitates the skills of individuality and enhances to potentiality to deal collectively. English language learning can be possible through individual as well as a collective effort.

1.3. Technology Integrated Learning

Technology integrated learning is that kind of environment where students can learn through various e-learning tools. All the language learning skills can be incorporated through technology. The teaching-learning process can be revitalized through tech-savvy teachers. Pervasiveness in technology interlinks the technological tools, English language and innovative methods of teaching and thereby provides access to English-speaking world (Becker et al. 2019).

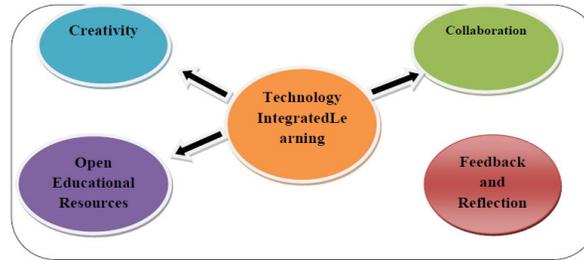


Figure 1: Various aspects of Technology Integrated Learning

1.4. Role of Teacher and Technological, Pedagogical and Content Knowledge (TPACK)

Technology-mediated learning can only be flourished and encouraged by the active participation of the teachers as well as the administrators and other authorities. This type of integration needs a co-operation with other stakeholders of education to implement it in their daily academic activities. Teachers should have the potentiality to incorporate technology in educational activities and thereby enhance the various skills to compete with the skill-based competitive world as well as exploring their capabilities. . Free and open educational resources technology should not always provided by the public companies rather these should be designed by the stakeholders of education (UNESCO, 2020). A teacher should not be stuff of content knowledge rather a teacher should have Technological, Pedagogical and Content knowledge. Content knowledge is not enough for today's digital learning. Teacher should have that updated knowledge about technology to deliver the skill-based knowledge to the students. For teaching English language and to inculcate skills technology has great role, especially this situation has made it mandatory to use technology conveniently. In the domain of English Language instruction there is a positive possibility to integrate technological and pedagogical aspects by the tech-savvy well trained teachers (Kassem, 2018).

3

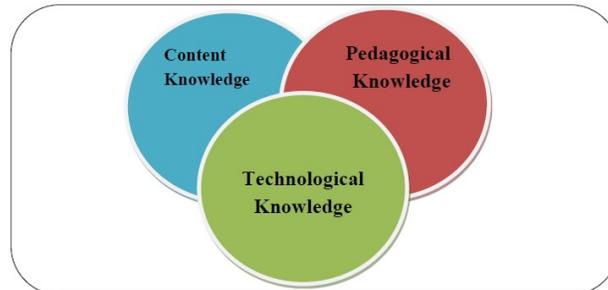


Figure 2: TPACK and their relations

Four Types of Skills: For language learning there are four skills- reading, writing, listening and speaking. Listening and reading are 'receptive skills' and writing and speaking are known as 'productive skills'. These two types of skills also known as assimilative language skill as these skills are used for gathering information in second hand. Both are active skills and require appropriate effort and attention. The other two skills speaking and writing are known as productive skills. These skills are the product of the receptive skills. Moreover, productive skills can be improved the improvement of receptive skills. All these skills are interlinked and complimentary of one another.

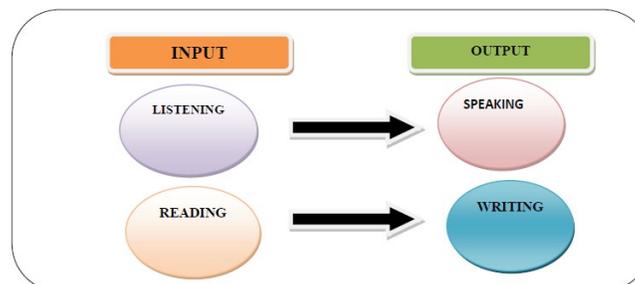


Figure 3: Various Skills of English Language Learning

Besides being an International language for communication, English language is also an official language in India. This considerably means of communication, learning and skills as well. Integration of ICT is a vital step in this pandemic era and era of praxis pedagogy (Raheem & Khan, 2020). Moreover, in our competitive world skills are the foremost requirement in every field. Especially in English language skills i.e. writing, speaking, and listening play a vital role as it helps the learners to achieve a transformation from information based knowledge to skill based knowledge. But now at the present situation skills related to English Language learning is not possible to the traditional face to face to learning, it is the time to accept the change and adjust with the technologies and acquire the skills. Students by using technology can easily acquire skills and can be prepared and equipped enough with this new normal pandemic situation. ICT tools in English Language learning can incorporate individualized learning and collaborative learning. These synchronous and asynchronous tools for communication and learning are very much needed to inculcate skills (Marchlik et al., 2021). Considering all the facts stated above, the researchers had studied the various technologies that can enhance the English language learning skills.

2. Literature Review

Despite the importance of speaking skills, it is undervalued. Speaking skills can be improved by the use of many technological tools. Accepting the new ways of method of teaching speaking skills can create a communicative circumstance (Bahadorfar & Omidvar, 2014). Researcher like Alhusban (2016) narrated the importance of writing skills in higher education as writing precisely, clearly, concisely and effectively with sophistication and precision. Use of technology to improve the writing skills sometimes may have negative impact on the higher education students. But there are some resistance to accept the change in the process of teaching learning as lack of time, lack of internet connectivity and resources in the schools. Technology based learning provides the learner various skills like listening, speaking, reading and writing within short time and in a cost effective manner but this process needs more consciousness. For those matters teachers should have high competencies to use various aspects of Technology to strengthen the teaching learning process. Besides that effective technology integrated environment is needed and experimental research should be done to get acquire result (Gunuc & Babacan, 2017). Technology Integration in English language learning is essential and for that matter teachers have a great role to prepare the lessons, to make technology integrated learning environment. Teachers should be tech-savvy and schools should be well equipped to promote this new and challenging type of learning process (Ahamadi, 2018). At the onset of era of technology, the application of technology in the field of English language is boon both for the teachers as well as the students to develop various linguistic skills. Teachers can properly illustrate the content, explain various issues, and motivate the learners' autonomy and competency. Technology based learning enhances the skills in a learner friendly environment. This outcome has great impact in the learning of English language in this existing global environment (Rao, 2019). For English language learning students can use various technological tools through smart phones like socrative, wordable, Tri Pro English, Fluent U, Google Docs etc. There are also other innovative ways to use technology in English language learning like whiteboard, skype, podcasts, online games etc. (Jana & Iveta, 2019). For English speaking performance flipped classroom has significant benefits to create learner-centred environment and thereby make the process more interactive and engaging (Abdullah et al., 2019). Teachers play a vital role in the integration of technology in the pedagogy. Despite their importance in using technology, there are lots of barriers they face (Mumtaz, 2020). Tan and Wong (2020) outlined that to create a constructive learning environment ICT as pedagogical tool foster the deep learning among students. ICT supported learning does not mean the delivery of instruction rather it focuses on successful learning. Researchers like Hamadi et al. (2021) argued that social media in Higher Education classroom can enhance not only the knowledge skills but also the collaboration skills if implemented carefully. Engelmann et al. (2021) Self-regulated learning through Technological tools enhances the process and performance of the students. Even it transfers the knowledge and skills to the students distinctly. Daniela (2021) Technology integrated learning provides the collective cognitive responsibility through concurrent and continuous transformative assessment in Higher Education through Blended mode of learning. Mobile learning, smart pedagogy and digital learning are the need of the hour to this present era of crisis.

2.1. Research Gap

After reviewing the above literature the researchers had found that there are numerous researches on the use of ICT in English language especially in this pandemic era, use of technology for the enhancement of speaking and writing skills, constructive learning environment and its impact, various challenges in using ICT in the language learning process, self regulated learning through ICT infused teaching-learning and the impact of social media in Higher Education. But there may be few researches on use of various technological tools for the improvement of skill in English Language learning. Therefore, the researchers had observed some knowledge gap in the area of application of Technological Tools in English Language learning and decided to work upon it.

3. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study were:

- To find out the tools for enhancing the reading skill for English language.
- To explore the tools for inculcating the listening skill for English language learning.
- To find out the tools for improving the speaking skill for English language learning.
- To detect the tools for promoting the writing skill for English language learning.

4. Research Questions

The present study had focused on the following questions:

- What are the tools for enhancing the reading skill for English language?
- What are the tools for inculcating the listening skill for English language?
- What are the tools for improving the speaking skill for English language?
- What are the tools for promoting the writing skill for English language?

5. Methodology

The researchers had adopted the qualitative approach. The researchers collected data from secondary sources of data. Then the researchers interpreted the data by using Inductive analysis and creative synthesis to get the accurate and comprehensive information. Here the researchers explore and then confirm the important pattern, themes, concern and their interrelationships.

6. Analysis

Objective 1: To find out the tools for enhancing the reading skill for English language

With technological and technological advancement digital literacy is becoming the basic learning skills. Reading acquisition means understanding the graphic representations of any language. Reading skills includes some sub-skills like word identification, comprehension skills. Word identification is to decipher the meaning from the printed symbols. Comprehension means to understand the meaning of the sentences together. Prior knowledge about the language is needed for acquiring the skills. So, reading is the decoding of visual clues alone.

With the advent of technology Reading skills can easily be accessed and used. Now the pronunciation or the art of reading is not only confined to the instructor's pronunciation, rather students can take advantages of various apps and online tools for the increment of the student's proficiency level. Some online tools can judge the readability or the accountability of the students for reading a text with proper pronunciation. There are other two online means to learn the reading skill, such as Fan fiction and Fandoms which helps the learners to enhance their vocabulary development. Fandoms are the rich source of giving feedback.

So, there are numerous online resources to learn reading skill. Thus, technological advantage for acquiring the reading skills and digital affordance allow to the students as well as teachers to evaluate the reading skill. Moreover, it enriches the reader-text interactions. In every grade many students can't read well, they are not a proficient reader at all. There are many a techniques to improve the reading proficiency through reading comprehension. Techniques and technology combination helps students to inculcate reading skills within the students properly.

Table 1. Technological tools for improving reading skills

Sl.No.	Tools	Description
1	Reading Bear	Technique: audio, self-listening, and highlighting. It helps to learn the phonemic knowledge of the letters very easily. Students can start with a letter sound and finally learn how to pronounce full sentence without audio. Students learn themselves in their own pace.
2	Whooo's Reading	Technique: comprehension monitoring and gamification. Here the students learn through games and comprehension. They can access their previous records to evaluate their progress. The students are awarded with some wisdom coins and it can only be earned by answering open-ended questions.
3	Newsela	This is the level reading online tools to acquire reading skills. The texts are focused mainly on non-fiction stories. It includes five different reading levels.
4	Rewordify	This online tool for improving reading skill is mainly focused on the meaning and source of the difficult words so that students can learn by their own.
5	Rainbow Sentences	Technique: highlighting, audio and gamification. Here students can learn parts of a sentence with bright rainbow colours. Words depict the story; they can create words according to their own.
6	Storia	Here the students can access huge e-books. Along with the reading skills it also helps the learner to enhance their vocabulary knowledge.
7	Reading Rockets	These tools helps to build phonemic awareness, improves fluency and stock of words and comprehensive skills.
8	Reading Eggs	It is a game -based learning tool here children can learn how to read interestingly.
9	Choosito	It is a digital library where child can learn reading many books of different subject areas.
10	Commonlit	These online tools for class 3 to 12. It supports to develop reading skill of the learner.
11	Pbs	This is a game- based online tool that helps the learners to improve their reading and literacy skills.
12	Scholastic	This helps the learner to improve their reading skill by providing them a book search tools.
13	Into the book	This is the reading comprehension tools for elementary students where reading skills are acquired by several strategies or techniques.
14	Read theory	It's another free online tool reading comprehension with the progress report.
15	Readworks	It provides high-quality library of literary articles along with reading comprehension, vocabulary lessons and assessment of learning.
16	Magic blox	It is a magnificent collection of story books for children of 1- year old to 13 years old.
17	Mightybook	This learning tool helps the learner to learn the reading skill with more interest through stories, songs, games, cartoons, comics, etc.

Objective 2: To explore the tools for inculcating the listening skill for English language learning

Mostly used skill is listening skill. It precedes the speaking, reading and writing skills. Listening is different from hearing as listening involves an active conscious effort to recognize, to evaluate and to understand the material that is heard. Listening skill is also comprised of some important sub-skills. These are as follows-

- Discriminate the different sounds
- Differentiate the words
- Connecting linguistic cues with the paralinguistic cues

The speaker's spoken language can listen through various ways like Voice inflections, gestures, facial expressions and body postures, etc. Listening is the assimilation of aural plus visual clues. There can be many types of listening like listening to non-verbal sounds, listening to natural sounds and listening mechanical sounds. On the basis of its function listening can be classified as purposive learning, creative listening and critical listening.

Table 2. Technological tools for improving listening skills

Sl.No.	Tools	Description
1	Lyricstraining	Here with this learning app one can learn listening skills with the help of the songs. The students can choose the difficulty level as it is gamified app.
2	Listen Note	This is a search engine for searching listening material for the student.
3	Accent Rosie	This can be used by using Facebook or messenger where students have to write what they listen in the audio.
4	TeachVid	Where children can develop their listening skill while they are watching videos.
5	Read Aloud	This is a text- to- speech app. Here the students can hear the pronunciation of a text.
6	Synth	Here in this online tool students can create dialogue and thereby develop their listening skills.
7	Fluid Data	These listening tools help students to learn different lexical items to appear in authentic speech.
8	Listen and Write	Like lyrics training here in this app one can develop his/her listening skill by writing what he/she has listened.
9	Speak Pipe	It is mainly for the instructor who can record any speech and send the learners to teach them pronunciation.

Objective 3: To find out the tools for improving the speaking skill for English language learning

Unlike the other two skills speaking skills is a social skill which can't evaluate easily. Speaking and talking may seem synonymous to us but it involves concentration, imagination and sensitiveness. Speaker can express his or her own ideas and thereby it becomes useful to a second language learner. Good speaking skills are based on various factors like fluency and accuracy, voice modulation, vocabulary, gesture and posture. Speaking also involves some skills like:

- Delivering content concisely
- Speak what is relevant to the content
- Pronunciation of the spoken material
- Words stock of the speaker

Online tools that can help a learner to learn speaking skills are:

Table 3. Technological tools for improving speaking skills

Sl.No.	Tools	Description
1	Sounds of Speech	It teaches how to pronounce the words by showing the movement of the mouth.
2	Italki	It is such online tool that helps the learner to interact with the language teachers.
3	Verbling	Here the learners can connect themselves with the native speakers through live chat and video.
4	Internations	This is also an online tool for interacting with native speakers.
5	Voicethread	This is a tool where one can speak about some picture or video which one already uploaded.
6	Forvo	In this app one can learn pronunciation of a word, along with that one can record one's own voice.
7	Duolingo	This app can evaluate the ability of language.

Objective-4: To detect the tools for promoting the writing skill for English language learning

Writing is also a skill where a child has to learn the grammatical part of that language as well as the alphabets of that particular language. Writing is such type of skill where one can express his or her thoughts through some symbols. It is the outcome or the consequence of the other skills like listening and speaking. Writing also involves some sub-skills like-

- Conciseness
- Appropriateness
- Clarity
- Use of words
- Skill of presentation

- Syntactical knowledge
- Semantic understanding

Writing can also be enhanced or enriched by many an online tool. Some tools are:

Table 4. Technological tools for improving writing skills

Sl.No.	Tools	Description
1	Teen Ink	There are poems, articles, short stories and essay, where the learner can be passionate about written word.
2	Grammarly	This app has sharp editing quality. It can correct the misspelled words in a written document.
3	Spellcheck	It not only corrects the misspelled words but also the pronunciation.
4	Grammar Girl	This is grammar related apps that corrects the grammatical structure of the writing.
5	Hemingway	This online tool checks one's writing's readability.
6	EditMinion	It helps to find out the common mistakes of writing.
7	Visuwords	Written documents can be decorated with the mind-maps.
8	750 Words	Here one can write whatever one has in his/her brain. Each time one has to write 750 words.
9	Word Counter	It helps one to avoid most used words and find out the keywords.
10	StoryMash	Here one can collaborate random chapters and make a story.
11	ProWritingAid	This is also a tool that helps to improve writing skills.
12	Cliché Finder	It detects the clichés in writing.
13	Quill	It has many functions like a proof-reader, a grammar checker and sentence shuffler.
14	MindTools	It helps to compose email.
15	Class Central	This is a tool for online writing course.
16	Help With Writing	It helps to make worksheets and lessons.
17	Storybird	Here students can find pictures to explain their words.
18	Hemingway Editor	This helps to improve spelling mistakes, grammatical errors or repetition in writing skill.
19	Grammarcheck.net	It helps to identify common grammar errors in writing.
20	Essay Mama	It shows articles and sample essays from where students can get ideas for writing.
21	WritingFix	This tool helps the students to encourage in writing by word game writing prompts.
22	StoryJumper	This online tool helps the learner to create online storybooks.
23	Time4Writing	It helps children for writing sentences, paragraphs and complete essays.
24	Figment	This tool encourages students to write and to share their writings.
25	JumpStart Essay Writing Activities	This tool helps the students to write essays by following some steps.

7. Discussion

The researchers had explored several technical tools for inculcating skills in English language. In this era of technology and when it left people in its prime need, numerous tools are the only means for improving the skills. Thereby technology helps to transform the pedagogical practice from static pedagogy to techno-pedagogy. These technology integrated skill based learning improves their innovative thought as well as

helps them to construct concept. This different kind of opportunity develops learner autonomy and technical realities. From primary to higher secondary students can use these technologies for their English language learning. When students are thrown in a virtual classroom, they can be competent enough with the present need of the world. Notwithstanding many obstacles of using these technologies for every children of a developing country like India, these technological strategies to enhance skills for English Language Learning provides a greater opportunities to make the learning process nationally important and internationally significant.

8. Conclusion

In our 21st century, technology pervades in all the activities of our everyday life. Now learning is not only for gaining knowledge but acquisition of skills is more important for lifelong learning. E-learning tools can bring a change in the leaning process as well as in the education system. Now-a-days, English language is the universal language. With the advancement of technology and with the changing need of society, acquiring English language skills is becoming dependent on technology. Students can use technology in various ways like online resources, interactive software, webinars, podcasts, multimedia visualization, and application, etc. Learning Management System (LMS) is such software where students and teachers can be assisted in any schools or in any universities. LMS can create, monitor and design various activities of learning. Effective communication can be achieved by this software. One can store or retrieve the lectures and instructional materials and thereby it can help the teachers for proper assessment and evaluation.

Thus, acquiring language skills through technology are very common and very easy in today teaching-learning process that faces a ubiquitous change in the current pandemic situation. It caters need of the learners. The intervention of the technology helps the learners to learn various skills through various strategies and techniques. It changes the way students learn or acquire skills through their teaching learning process. Digital technologies are the only solution of the learning the four basic skills to language. Online tools can be used through digital technologies like mobile, laptop, smart boards, personal computer, interactive board, K-yan, e-library, I-pads, audio equipments, overhead projector etc. English language learning as well as the entire education system broadly undergoes a tremendous change into the method of teaching. It has been turned in technology integrated learning from grammar-translation method, direct method, and bilingual method. In earlier time English was taught as knowledge of a foreign language but it should be taught as skill since Transformative Education in the NEP-2020 also discussed about the skills rather than mere information. Moreover, one thing teacher should not forget the prime aim of Education i.e. modification of the behaviour of the learner. Rather they should create a balance between the instructional objective and technology based learning method and the learning content. For creating a favorable learning environment to acquire skills technology integrated learning is the easiest and cost-effective way.

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