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**Significance of Virtual Material and Virtual Learning in Enhancing  
English Language Competency of Learners**

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**Introduction:**

The first thing is to understand what ICT in Education means. ICT in education refers to “an umbrella term that includes any communication device or application, encompassing: television, mobile phone, computer, and network hardware and software satellite system, etc. as well as the various services and applications associated with them, such as videoconferencing and distance learning in education.” ICT has capacity to solve some of the major challenges currently facing educational system globally. ICT can play major role in the areas of improving access quality and efficiency of education.

**The Role of ICT :**

The role of ICT in national development is undeniably significant. The success of ICT has continually been noted in developed countries. It has equally significant for developing countries like India. Its great impact can be seen in the developed countries on the economic, scientific, academic, social, political, cultural and other aspects of life. We cannot think virtual material and virtual learning without ICT.

**The Present Perspective:**

When we observe the search and studies that has been going on in the field of English language learning, it is clearly proved that technology and literature play the key role. Whether the learners are from literature background or technical background, language has the same purpose. We understand the world through language. Knowledge of language is always essential for perceiving the reality of the world in general. Now days when any significant incident happens electronic media plays vital role and gives us a great opportunity to learn language through advertisements, blogs, cinemas, internet and other related areas. It is the need of hour that forces the modern technology and pedagogy to concentrate on specialized forms of English language learning that satisfy the conspicuous communication needs.

**Advance Learning Resources.**

ICT plays great role in language learning as it makes use of a vast wealth of teaching and learning materials that are offered free of cost through ICT.

**Learning Software: Learning software is of two types**

- 1) Online learning resources
- 2) Networking software

1 **Online Learning Resources:** Websites like Wikipedia are where teachers can create notes, type them and send them to their students. At the same time students not only have the opportunity to learn but at the same time have flexibility to edit and used it. Teachers can effectively used advanced web sources like podcasting sites such as [www.podcatinenglish.com](http://www.podcatinenglish.com), [www.podcast.net](http://www.podcast.net) etc. to download audio and video programmes for use in language classes. Some of the online sites like [www.edx.org](http://www.edx.org), [www.academicearth.org](http://www.academicearth.org), [www.brightstorm.com](http://www.brightstorm.com) etc. are very useful for teachers.

Some of the best free softwares can be used by the teachers and learners:

- **Anki:** Anki is one of the valuable language learning software available. We can use it to learn new English phrases and words. If we already know English, then we can improve our English by using this software.
- **Open Teacher:** Open teacher is quality teaching software which we can also use to learn or improve our English language easily. It has many features to prove that it is one quality software to learn English.
- **ETS:** ETS is quality English learning software as it provides grammar test, vocabulary test and pronunciation test.
- **English today lite:** It is very useful English language learning software for beginners as well as for regular English speakers.

2. **Networking Software:** Effective networking software's are available in the market and most prominent ones are given below.

- **Technology in context:** This is design especially for students who already have some knowledge of English. It serves in improving language skills in general and listening skills in particular. A variety of languages items, such as grammar, comprehensive, and speaking and writing tasks, are included in this learning software. It contains science topics as well as topic of general interest. It caters to all sections of students who want to improve their skills in English.
- **M-Learning:** Now days everyone has access to smart phones. It is very handy, portable, easily accessible and inexpensive compared to other devices. Educational information could be passed on through mobiles by sending sms and by useful applications like WhatsApp, Chats, Shareit, etc. YouTube is one of the most popular websites and a vast resource for educational content. The site is home to over 10 million videos tagged as educational resources. This huge and varied resource has nearly endless potential for the classroom. Dictionary, educational news, current discoveries, and online lectures also we could receive through mobile.
- **E-Learning:** It is pedagogy empowered by digital technology. E-learning is used to define a specific mode to attend a courses or programs of study where the students rarely or never meet face to face nor access on campus educational facilities because the study online. It is combination of learning and technologies to provide higher value integrated learning any time, any place to anyone. It is flexible, quick, and high quality learning method, which uses various learning tools of internet.
- **EDUSAT Live Transmission:** EDUSAT is the first Indian communication satellite built exclusive to serve the educational field. CEC EDUSAT network has done exceptionally well in the past and has won many laurels since it began live transmission on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2005. In the

live transmission, CEC acts as the teaching end. Subject experts deliver lectures live. These lectures are received by varies SITs and RoTs. They are known as classroom end. The teaching end can be shifted from one SIT to another. Thus, the students can benefit from experts located in various educational institutions across the country. The expert can address the queries of the students in the live mode. The students can interact and ask questions in live mode.

- **E-Tutorial:** With the help of web camera E-tutor appears in the computer screen of the student and interacts with him and provides needed instructions. In this way students get their doubts clarified, learn new topic or receive training in a skill.

## Conclusion:

ICT provides rich virtual materials as well as an opportunity for the learners to use his maximum senses to get expected outcomes. It has broken the monotony and provided variety in the teaching learning process. ICT develops self learning, and self development models. ICT assisted online tutorials provide online training resources and learning techniques of English language learning which make the subject much easier to understand and comprehended. Virtual learning resources of English language are very useful and have found dramatic changes in the competency of learners.

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