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## Improving 21st Century Teaching Skills Using Technological Tools

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### ABSTRACT

In the rapidly evolving landscape of 21st-century education, the integration of technological tools has become paramount in enhancing teaching skills and improving learning outcomes. This Research Paper explores the multifaceted ways in which technology can be leveraged to augment traditional teaching methodologies. From interactive digital platforms that facilitate personalized learning experiences to advanced analytics tools that enable data-driven instruction, educators are presented with a plethora of opportunities to innovate and adapt their pedagogical approaches. Furthermore, the adoption of collaborative tools promotes student engagement and fosters a more inclusive learning environment. Despite the numerous advantages, challenges such as digital divide and technological proficiency among educators remain significant barriers to full-scale integration. This abstract underscores the importance of continuous professional development and strategic implementation of technological solutions to empower educators and equip students with the essential skills required in the 21st century.

**KEYWORDS: TEACHING SKILLS, TECHNOLOGICAL TOOLS, 21ST CENTURY**

### INTRODUCTION

The 21st century has witnessed unprecedented advancements in technology, reshaping the way we live, work, and learn. In the realm of education, this digital transformation presents both opportunities and challenges for educators striving to enhance their teaching skills and meet the diverse needs of today's learners. As classrooms become increasingly diverse and interconnected, there is a growing demand for innovative teaching methodologies that leverage technological tools to foster engagement, collaboration, and personalized learning experiences. This introduction delves into the significance of integrating technology into teaching practices, highlighting the potential benefits and addressing the inherent challenges. By exploring the multifaceted ways in which technological tools can augment traditional pedagogical approaches, this paper aims to provide educators with insights and strategies to adapt and thrive in the ever-evolving educational landscape of the 21st century.

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

**Shaik, Prabhu, Hussain & Poloju (2023)** has conducted a research on "An Interactive Design Tool for Assessing Student understanding in Digital Environments". Various e-tools and interactive media have improved and enhanced the teaching and learning in higher education.. This paper illustrates how online quiz creators and education tools might improve the student performance in academic setup. This platform assists with student engagement and learning to make them active learner. Students are greatly motivated by various learning styles and technology that suits them. This also has helped the students to avoid a random online tool and join a safe environment to enhance their learning.

**Ming, jotikasthira & songyu (2023)** has conducted a research on "Migration Factors Impacting Instructors' Intention to Utilize Digital Tools for Teaching Sustainable Development". The research employs a quantitative method, gathering data from 644 valid questionnaires obtained through purposive sampling and an online survey. The findings enrich the application of the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) and the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB), demonstrating their capacity to elucidate the Intention to use digital tools in sustainable development education. The results reveal that Perceived Behavioural Control (PBC) and Subjective Norms of digitalization positively influence the Intention to use digital tools, while the Perceived usefulness of digitalization and Digital Attitude toward teaching sustainable development (DA) act as positive intermediary variables. These findings provide valuable implications for teachers and school administrators in implementing digital tools for sustainable development education

### CONCEPT OF TEACHING SKILLS

Every professional demands certain specific skills and competency in their professional area for producing maximum output within optimum cost and time. Teaching profession is a process of social engineering. Hence it should be taken place effectively and efficiently. A skilled teacher can make wonders in their profession and can influence the learning process as well as the learning outcome of the students and help them to achieve their life

goals. According to Burton "Teaching to the Stimulation, guidance and direction and encouragement of learning". Teaching skills refer to the abilities and competencies required to effectively impart knowledge, information, or a particular skill set to others. These skills include: Communication, Patience, adaptability, subject knowledge, Engagement, Assessment and feedback, organization and planning, Empathy. Teaching skills are essential for effective teaching. Teaching skills refer to different direct or indirect practices or behaviours adopted by teachers to enable a better learning experience for their students. These skills may help students learn or engage in a better way. Teaching skill can be defined as a set of interrelated expressive behaviour of the teacher (verbal and nonverbal) which can be observable, explainable, assessable, demonstrable and refinable through perfect practices.

**According to L. Gage (1968) defined** "Teaching skills are specific instructional activities and procedures that a teacher may use in his classroom. These are related to the various stages of teaching or in the continuous flow of the teacher's performance."

**According to B.K. Passi (1976),** "Teaching skills are a group of teaching acts or behaviors intended to facilitate pupil's learning directly or indirectly".

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## CONCEPT OF 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

The term 21<sup>st</sup> century skills refers to a broad set of knowledge, skills, work habits, and character traits that we are believed by educators, school reformers, college professors, employers, and others to be critically important to success in today's world.

In simple terms, 21<sup>st</sup> century Skills refers to the skills that are required to enable an individual to face the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century world that is globally active, digitally transforming, collaboratively, moving forward, creatively progressing, seeking competent human resource and quick in adopting challenges.

**The Delors Report (1996)** produced by the international Commission on Education for Twenty first Century proposed one of the first frameworks to identify competencies needed in the coming century. The Delors Report also formulated four principles identified as the four Pillars of Education: Learning to Know, Learning to Do, Learning to Be, Learning to Live Together.

**WHO Life Skills** : Decision-Making and Problem-Solving; Creative Thinking and Critical Thinking, Communication and Interpersonal Skills; Self-Awareness and Empathy, Coping with Emotions and Coping with Stress.

Partnership for 21st Century Skills : (P21, 2007a, 2011). These included 'The 4Cs' – communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity, which are to be taught within the context of core subject areas and twenty-first century themes.

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## TYPES OF 21ST CENTURY TEACHING SKILLS

Teaching skills encompass a broad range of competencies that educators utilize to facilitate effective learning experiences and support student development. Here are some types of teaching skills:

**1. Communication Skills:** The ability to convey information clearly and effectively to students, parents, and colleagues through verbal, written, and non-verbal means.

**2. Classroom Management:** Skills to create a positive and organized learning environment, manage student behavior, and maintain discipline while promoting a conducive atmosphere for learning.

**3. Technology Integration:** The ability to effectively utilize technological tools and digital resources to enhance teaching and learning experiences, promote digital literacy, and foster 21st-century skills.

**4. Collaboration and Teamwork:** Skills to work collaboratively with colleagues, parents, and other stakeholders to support student learning, share best practices, and contribute to a positive school culture.

**5. Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning:** The capacity to develop engaging and relevant instructional materials, design curriculum frameworks, and plan effective lessons that align with learning objectives and standards.

**6. Differentiated Instruction:** The skill to tailor teaching strategies and learning activities to accommodate diverse learning styles, abilities, and needs of individual students.

**7. Adaptability and Flexibility:** The capacity to adapt teaching strategies and approaches in response to student needs, classroom dynamics, and changing educational contexts.

**8. Cultural Competency and Inclusivity:** Awareness and understanding of cultural diversity, equity, and inclusion to create inclusive learning environments and support the diverse needs of all students.

**9. Reflective Practice:** The habit of regularly reflecting on teaching practices, seeking feedback, and engaging in professional development to continuously improve and refine teaching skills and approaches.

**10. Assessment and Evaluation:** Competencies in designing and implementing formative and summative assessments to measure student progress, identify learning gaps, and provide constructive feedback.

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## OBJECTIVES OF 21ST CENTURY TEACHING SKILLS USING TECHNOLOGICAL TOOLS

- 1.To Encourage students to analyze information, think critically, and solve complex problems using digital resources.
- 2.To Promote teamwork and communication through online platforms, collaborative software, and social media tools
- 3.To Encourage students innovative thinking by utilizing multimedia tools, design software, and digital storytelling platforms

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## INNOVATIVE ICT TOOLS IN FACILITATING TEACHING AND LEARNING

Improving 21st-century teaching skills using technological tools is essential to enhance student engagement, collaboration, and learning outcomes. Here are some ways educators can leverage technology:

**1.Digital Content Creation platforms :** Use tools like Grammarly, Canva, Google Trends, Semrush, Animoto, Anchor, Creator IQ, Notion, Luminar AI or Microsoft Sway to create interactive presentations, infographics, and videos to make lessons more engaging.

**2.Online Collaboration Tools :** Collaboration Platforms like Zoom, Google Workspace, Microsoft Teams, Google Docs, Onenote, Dropbox and Slack can facilitate communication and collaboration among students, allowing for seamless sharing of resources and feedback.

**3.Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR):** Incorporate VR and AR tools like Google Expeditions or AR apps to create immersive learning experiences, making abstract concepts more tangible and relatable.

**4.Gamification Software (from sources across the web):** Implement gamification elements using platforms like Kahoot!, Hoopla, Ambition, Bunchball, Rallyware, Bravo or EdApp to make learning more interactive and fun, encouraging student participation and motivation.

**5.Adaptive Learning Platforms:** Utilize adaptive learning platforms like 360Learning, Pearson Education, Realizeit, CYPHER Learning, Knewton or Khan Academy to personalize learning paths based on students' individual needs and pace.

**6.Digital Assessment Tools:** Use digital assessment tools like Mentimeter, Formative, Google Forms, Quizlet, Moodle, Nearpod, Assistments or Zoho survey to create and administer assessments, providing instant feedback to students and facilitating data-driven instruction.

**7.Online Professional Development Platforms:** Take advantage of online courses, webinars, and workshops to stay updated with the latest educational technology trends and best practices.

**8.Social Media and Blogging:** Engage with students and parents through social media platforms like Telegram, Whatsapp, YouTube, LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter or class blogs to share updates, showcase student work, and foster a sense of community.

**9.Notes or Academic Materials Platforms:** Use Notes and Academic materials Platforms like e-pg Pathshala, eGyankosh or Pdfdrive.net based on students' individual needs.

**10.Digital Citizenship and Online Safety:** Educate students about responsible technology use, online safety, and digital citizenship using resources and tools like Common Sense Education or NetSmartz.

**11.Continuous Learning and Adaptability:** Embrace a growth mindset and be willing to adapt and learn new technologies as they emerge, staying flexible and innovative in your teaching approach.

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## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In the 21st century, teaching skills have evolved to incorporate technological tools that enhance the learning experience. The integration of technology offers educators new avenues to engage students, personalize learning, and foster collaboration. From interactive presentations to online collaboration platforms, technology has become an indispensable part of modern education. However, effective implementation requires continuous professional development for educators to harness the full potential of these tools.

### *DISCUSSION*

**1.Personalized Learning:** Technological tools allow teachers to tailor instruction to individual student needs. Adaptive learning platforms can adjust content in real-time based on a student's performance, ensuring targeted support and challenges.

**2.Collaborative Learning:** Platforms like Google Classroom or Microsoft Teams facilitate collaboration among students, enabling them to work on projects, share resources, and provide feedback seamlessly.

**3.Enhanced Engagement:** Multimedia elements, gamified learning experiences, and virtual reality can make lessons more engaging, capturing students' attention and enhancing retention.

**4. Professional Development:** Continuous training and support are essential for educators to stay updated with the latest technological advancements and pedagogical strategies. Institutions should invest in professional development programs to equip teachers with the skills needed to integrate technology effectively.

**5. Equity and Accessibility:** While technology offers numerous benefits, it's crucial to ensure equitable access to devices and internet connectivity for all students. Additionally, educators must be mindful of diverse learning needs and adapt technological tools to cater to various learning styles and abilities.

**6. Challenges and Considerations:** Despite the benefits, integrating technology into teaching comes with challenges such as digital divide, potential distractions, and the need for digital literacy skills. It's essential to address these challenges proactively through strategic planning, resource allocation, and ongoing support.

## CONCLUSION

In the 21st century, teaching skills have evolved to incorporate technological tools that enhance the learning experience. The integration of technology offers educators new avenues to engage students, personalize learning, and foster collaboration. From interactive presentations to online collaboration platforms, technology has become an indispensable part of modern education. However, effective implementation requires continuous professional development for educators to harness the full potential of these tools. In conclusion, technological tools have the potential to revolutionize 21st-century teaching skills by fostering personalized, collaborative, and engaging learning environments. However, successful integration requires a thoughtful approach, continuous professional development, and a commitment to addressing equity and accessibility concerns.

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