INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

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Information and communications technology or information and communication technology, usually called ICT, is often used as an extended synonym for information technology (IT) but is usually a more general term that stresses the role of unified communications and the integration of telecommunications (telephone lines and wireless signals), intelligent building management systems and audio-visual systems in modern information technology.

ICT covers any product that will store, retrieve, manipulate, transmit or receive information electronically in a digital form. For example, personal computers, digital television, email, robots.

Lets focus on the three words behind ICT. So, information is knowledge of specific events or situations that has been gathered or received by communication; intelligence or news. Communications is exchange of information between individuals through a common system of signs, symbols, or behavior representation is a usable channel of communication between humans. And, technology - the branch of knowledge that deals with the creation and use of technical means and their interrelation with life, society, and the environment.

In the early days of the PC in schools, games were almost the only software available thanks largely to the concept of 'edutainment' – a mixture of 'education' and 'entertainment'. These software titles, such as Magic Bus, presented a rather second rate entertainment score combined with a little education along the way. Thankfully, and due in no small measure to ELCs, software has moved on a long way since those days and the educational aspect of school software has become more dominant.

What kinds of technology do teachers and students use and what role do ICT play in supporting these innovations? A large majority of the innovations use productivity tools (78%), Web resources (71%), and e-mail (68%). Many—52%—use multimedia software. In almost all of the cases—94%—computers are used in regular school settings such as the classroom, library, or computer laboratory. In far fewer cases, teachers use ICT to plan or organize instruction or to monitor or assess student work . In a small number of cases ICT are used to support student collaboration , or simulations or modeling software packages are used for research or experimentation.

10 important rules are for teaching with ICT: 1) Teachers need a reliable internet connection with good bandwidth

2) Teachers need the support of well-designed resources 3) The secret to a successful online course is interaction 4) A successful course is usually a well-planned one 5) Intended outcomes need to be clear

6) Online learning is more than repeating previously learned material

7) 'Something for nothing' is always good

8) Don't allow time for questions!

9) Use the tools

10) Online teaching requires new skills