Abstract of the Ph.D. Thesis

DEVELOPMENT OF ICT BASED MODULE AND EVALUATION OF ITS EFFECTIVENESS ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE WRITING SKILLS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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By acknowledging the needs of 21st century learners and a close association between English language and ICT, the present study attempted to develop ICT based module for the development of English language writing skills of secondary school students and evaluation of its effectiveness. In the first phase of study need analysis was conducted and on the basis of the findings, following were decided as part of module- five English Language Writing Skills (ELWS) - focus, organization, support & elaboration, and convention of ELW; use of task based approach to design activities; catering expository writing type; and use of basic ICT applications. The study empolyed a quasiexperimental (Pre-test and post-test non-equivalent group) design to study the effectiveness of the module on the level of ELWS, use of ICT for ELW, perception towards their own ELW. The prominent findings of the studied pointed out that ICT based module brought in significant positive gains in: the level of all the five ELWS (Focus, organization, support & elaboration, style, and conventions of ELW); number of students who follow process approach to writing; use of ICT for ELW; and perception towards their ELW and level of ease with ELWS and process approach to writing. Along with it, the findings also showed that module helped the students in perceiving themselves as better English language writers and it was effective in terms of effect on the three stages of process approach and five ELWS. The majority of them reported that module enabled them to use ICT for ELW, had suitable structure, created conducive environment (physical and psychological) for ELW; and sources and activities were apt. Findings also provided takeaways for improving the modules, like need to devise mechanism to encourage creative; original and interesting ELW using ICT; teach how to select relevant and sufficient information from internet as per the need of the topic; teach the use of MS-word features and other ICT tools and applications extensively; and addition of more quizzes to practice ELW & its skills and evaluation software, etc.