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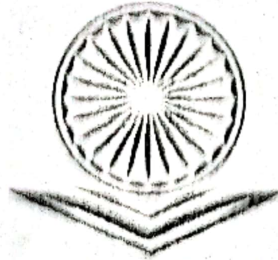
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## CONTENTS OF PART - I



S.No.	Title & Author	Page No.
1	Teachers Role in Effective Teaching in Chemistry at Higher Education <b>Thansing B. Pawar</b>	1-5
2	Innovations Teaching, Learning and Evaluation in Higher Education <b>Dr. C. G. Dighavkar</b> <b>Prof. G. M. Gangurde</b>	6-10
3	Impact of the Evolution of Smartphones in Education Technology and its Applications in Learning Electronics Circuits <b>A. V. Patil</b> <b>U. J. Tupe</b> <b>A. B. Patil</b> <b>V. S. Raut</b> <b>T. C. Thete</b> <b>S.A. Nale</b> <b>U. P. Shinde</b>	11-19
4	Virtual Laboratory - An Innovative Teaching and Learning Method <b>Anil B. Patil</b> <b>V. R. Raut</b> <b>S.A. Nale</b> <b>T. C. Thete</b> <b>U. J. Tupe</b> <b>U. P. Shinde</b> <b>A. V. Patil</b>	20-27
5	A Study of Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL) <b>Dr. Kishor Ramrao Nikam</b>	28-31
6	Effect of Blended Learning in Higher Education on Teaching Learning Process <b>Sunil D. Patil</b> <b>Sangita Narawade</b>	32-35





## CONTENTS OF PART - I



S. No.	Title & Author	Page No.
7	Innovative Teaching and Learning Methods in Higher Education S. J. Limbare	36-41
8	Innovative and Best Approaches in Teaching, Learning and Evaluation in Higher Education Mr. Kamalakar Baburao Gaikwad	42-48
9	New Perspectives in Teaching and Learning Methods A. V. Gajbhiye C. R. Yewale D. F. Shirude B. B. Bachhav	49-52
10	Role of ICT in History Teaching Archana H. Gaikwad Kirti K. Pagar	53-56
11	An Innovative Approach towards Effective Teaching: Microteaching C. R. Yewale A. V. Gajbhiye D. F. Shirude	57-60
12	MATLAB: Advanced Teaching and Learning Tool Deepak R. Patil Manoj T. Patil Punam S. Pawar Anil B. Patil	61-66
13	Teaching English Literature through Digital Media Ms. Deepanjali Karbhari Borse	67-71
14	On situation of Mathematics at Secondary School level in Nashik City: Case Study Snehal S. Manjarekar A. P. Bhadane	72-76



## 13. Teaching English Literature through Digital Media

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Literature holds immense pedagogical potential. Teaching Literature as a medium for English Language instruction has a pedagogical value. Literature is very useful in everyday life. It relates different experiences and cultural codes, expands worldviews as well as teaches language and culture. Literature teaches us to be more human. Teaching English literature as a medium of English language instruction has noted positive effects on student motivation and engagement. Evaluating ideas, emotions, plots and considering imaginative worlds is a constructive process for language learners. It increases the understanding of different perspectives along with the hold of target language. Literature has pedagogical potential to encourage critical thinking, widen horizons and inspire the learners. Amos Paran points out that, "the research indicates that learners who have been exposed to positive experiences with literature and who are given the opportunity to read literature and respond to it, both benefit linguistically and enjoy the experience. (480)" Engage the learners for the study of literature is very necessary for it.

Today literature teaching has been achieving new meanings and intersections with digital media in a changing globalised environment. One can engage the students in the study of literature through the use of media. The technology is changing the environment of learning as it provides various choices to the learners. It includes films, photographs, and web applications like You tube, blogs, Wikis and social media etc. The media can be used as a bridge for acquiring skills in literary analysis and language acquisition. Some educators may insist that literature classroom should follow traditional method of teaching of classical works but in this changing scenario, one will probably find out that students show more interest in media text than in literary texts. Today students are exposed to more digital texts than any other generation. In the last decade, the development of smart phones and computers transforms education, curriculum and educational institutions. Each student easily handles smart phones in their day to day life.



Teachers can take advantage of this by using the media to engage students and help them to appreciate literature. This is particularly helpful for the students who find difficulty in comprehending the text as well as who are not motivated to read the text beyond its superficial meaning.

Technologies are transforming literary production and its conceptualization. Raine Koskima asserts that, "It is an important task for basic research in literary studies to recognize how notions of everyday life, changing by the growing role of information and communications technologies are reflected in literature, and what consequences this has for narratological, semiotic, and cognitive structures in literature (172)." The advent of the internet and social media has made the work of marginalized authors more accessible and allow networking broadcasting opportunities beyond traditional, biased, exclusive or inaccessible publication sites. Using social media and internet in English Literature teaching is effective in the present curriculum. Educators are advised to promote knowledge sharing in terms of collaborative learning to raise students' awareness of academic integrity.

You Tube, films, Blogs, Internet, Wikibooks, social media like use of Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, and Twitter etc. have been widely used in teaching. Literature is a good source for developing students' abilities to comprehend and to make interpretations. Literary texts are often rich in multiple levels of meaning and demand active participation of the learner. It helps to inspire the imagination of the student to develop their critical abilities and to increase their emotional awareness. The increase in the impact of digital communication is found among the students. Literary topics help the students not only to acquire the subject knowledge but also help to acquire the language skills. The eLearn Blogs, Forums and Wikis can be used for sharing information, discussions and collaborative work or projects. Students may use You Tube for the subject related materials and also utilize eLearn Blogs or Wiki tools to fulfill the subject requirement or access Facebook or other social media tools for their own learning practice. They may become increasingly confident to respond and expressing their own ideas and emotions in English. They will feel empowered by their capability to tackle with the text and its language and to relate it to the values and traditions of their own society.

You Tube is the most well-known tool for English literature teaching. You Tube is helpful for delivering video lessons, text based movies, dramas etc. The impact of visual sense is greater than the reading of a text. It experiences the students a real sense of achievement at



engaging or dealing with the literary materials through the videos and films. Studying English literature become a fun and entertainment for the students which provide an interest and thought-provoking point of view. After watching such videos, students can easily re-tell the stories and also can understand all the dramatic effects of a play or novel. A play may engage the students in complicated adult dilemma. A poem may bring out a powerful emotional response from students. They may comprehend the questions like- compare and contrast the literary text with a film adaptation. How is story ordered in a text? Evaluate writer and director's choice of employing flashback, flash forward or a time lapse in telling the story. Focus on a character, place, setting, the point of view of a literary text etc. If the material is chosen carefully, students will feel that what they do in the classroom is relevant and meaningful to their own lives. Selection of motivational material is needed for it. You Tube also helps as a language instructor for the students. It helps to improve vocabulary, grammar patterns or even intonation. It is a video sharing platform that has video content which is very helpful in learning listening and speaking.

As English is the second language, students feel it difficult to read, speak and write. Most of the students have fairly limited access to spoken and written English. But they have the craze for learning English language as it is a global language. Literature encourages language acquisition as it provides meaningful and memorable contexts for processing and interpreting new language. Web applications such as blog, wiki generate for student communicative environment that engage them in conversation and motivate them to express themselves. They even share their knowledge with others. Using web based applications improve and increase students motivation and interaction. M. Poore declares in her book *Using Social Media in the Classroom*, "A blog is a virtual writing-sharing platform that provides users with features to post different themes, journals and writings on varied subjects."

Literary texts successfully promote activities where students need to share their feelings and opinions such as discussions and group works through blogs. Literature is a factual documentation of the society. Novels, Prose, Short Stories, Poems, and Plays represent reality; reflect specific culture, social dogmas, and political, economical, historical activities. It can be argued that reading literature in English encourage students to aware of the social, political and historical events which form the background to a particular play or novel. It contextualizes how a member of particular society might behave or react in a specific situation. Focusing on a task demands students have to express their own personal responses to accelerate their acquisition of



language and literary skills. Teachers may provide them important topics to learn through the blogs or various websites. Teacher can create an account on any blogging service and ask students to write about specific topic, post questions considering students as "Authors" on the class blog.

Students have an easy access to their own smart phones. They are very active on social media like Facebook, Whatsapp, Twitter, Instagram etc. Facebook and whatsapp reflect students' preference of tools for English learning. They found it easy to communicate with each other and do the collaborative activities. Teachers may grab this opportunity to motivate the students for English literature and language learning. Teacher and students can set up a group and give them a task or project and check their progress. Upload the subject specific files and encourage the students to participate in the discussions. They are already in the habit of communicating with each other through this channel, so they find it easy and instinctive to communicate and collaborate in this way. Teacher could give easily quick feedback, comments or simply encourage students with follow up questions, or students may ask questions and teacher could answer quickly outside the classroom. It gives students a new learning experience where they develop their habit of using English during class time as well as outside the class. Use of social media in teaching is a promising approach to support students' self-regulated learning.

There are so many educational benefits of using digital media like students become critical and reflective. It allows for creativity, collaboration, negotiation, teamwork. It tracks development in knowledge construction and comprehension. It is easier to share opinions and discoveries as well as share information and data easily to each other. Apart from these benefits, there are few drawbacks like the use of social media for social communication and for entertainment purposes is greater than the need to support learning. This fact is disadvantageous because social media can be used effectively by students to learn independently, acquire extensive learning materials and integrate various media. Teacher has to check over the students that they should follow his instructions and allow minimum use for their entertainment.

Digital media including social media offers diverse platform like You Tube, Wikis, Blogs, facebook, Whatsapp etc. for teachers to use in teaching English literature effectively. It provides instructional materials and endless resources that involve and engage students in classroom activities. Integrate digital, social media applications with teaching offer a variety of ways to teach curriculum and provide students a healthy learning environment. Thus students can



learn effectively in their own space and time. They have an easy access of internet at their home too. They can store available videos on internet and all learning material and distributed electronically. If they miss their regular classes, they are able to get the material through web and study it. Teacher needs to know which media platform can support and improve their students' language and literary skills. Teachings of English literature through digital and social media certainly assess and improve student's language and literary skills. Today digital media is an urgent need for providing teachers with the latest methods in teaching English.

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