

## Role of ICT tool in Acquisition of Proficiency in English Language- A Case Study on Outcome of Using MePro Pearson Software Tool

P. Haripriya<sup>1</sup>, Y.V. Siva Reddy<sup>2</sup>, A. Sreenidhi<sup>3</sup>, S. Sailaja<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1,3,4</sup> Assistant Professors, Department of Humanities and Basic Sciences, G. Pulla Reddy Engineering College (Autonomous), Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, India-518007

<sup>2</sup> Professor, Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department, G. Pulla Reddy Engineering College (Autonomous), Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, India-518007

haripriya.srujana@gmail.com, yvsreddy.eee@gprec.ac.in, sn999db@gmail.com

**Article History:** Received: 10 January 2021; Revised: 12 February 2021; Accepted: 27 March 2021; Published online: 28 April 2021

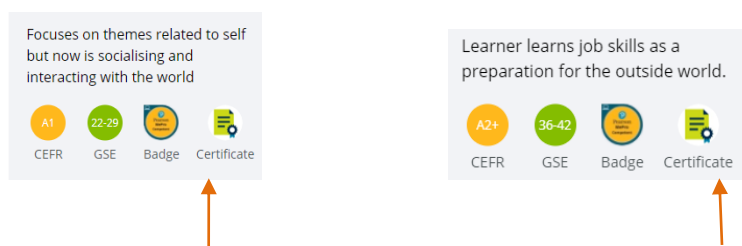
**ABSTRACT:** Proficiency in English, both writing and communication are considered as the most important life skills of the modern era. These skills are considered as an asset for lifelong learning and aids in recruitment process or sustainability in the job. This may even endeavor to reduce psychological stress while speaking or reading within the group and among the group. These days learning through online has become the order of the day. This paper presents the real need and priorities to learn English language through ICT (Information through Communication Technology) tools. The researcher of English department has found the students' opinion and experience on use of ICT tools for enhancing the skills in English language. This paper investigates how English language tool, MePro from Pearson has helped students for employability and career development. A survey on MePro is tested and experienced by GPREC (G.Pulla Reddy Engineering College) students in the transformation of the student to achievement level with first hand practical knowledge is taken as a case study in the paper.

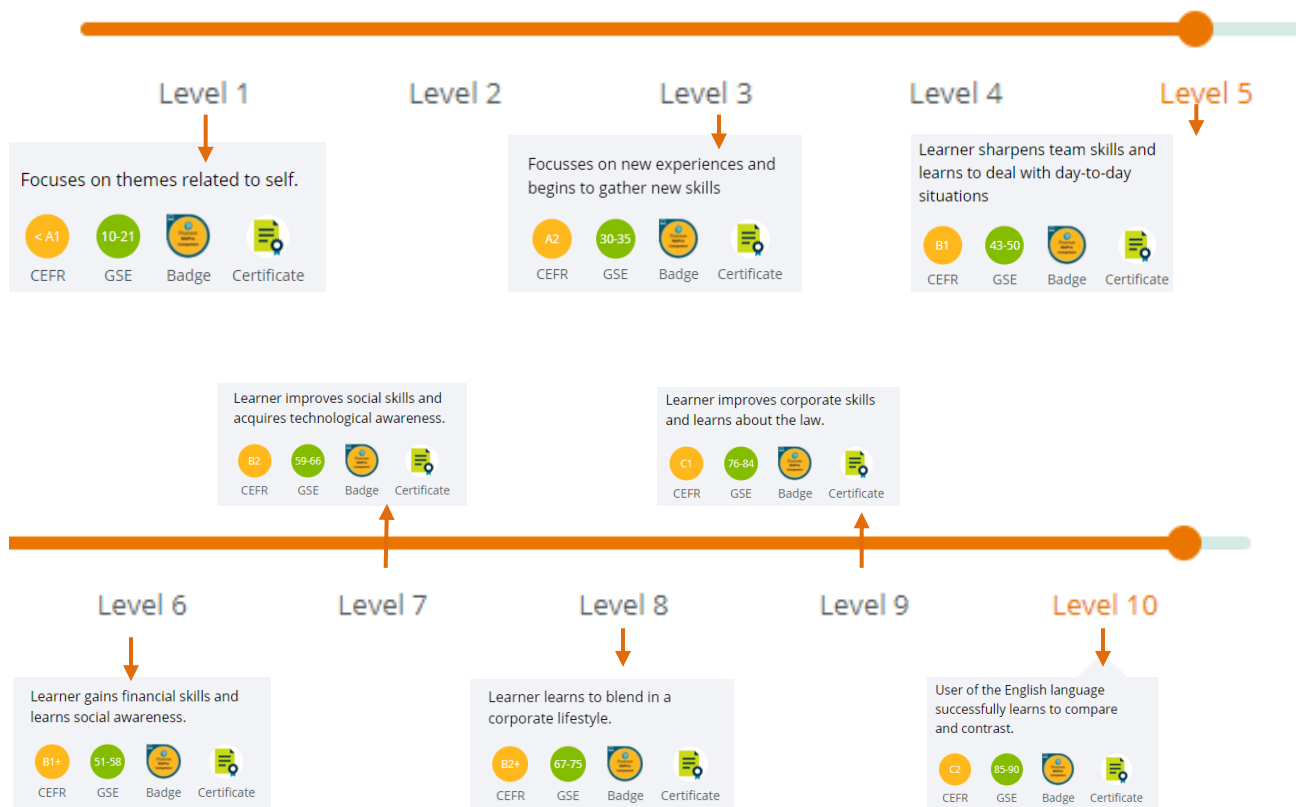
### INTRODUCTION:

The world is competitive and at the same time the demand for skilled and talented students is high. In other words though the job market is lucrative, the available talent pool is less i.e. there is a lot of gap between the expected skills and the skills possessed by students. One among these skills is good communication and this may be due to social background, location and lack of exposure to different ways of learning. Hence forth the management of GPREC has recognized the importance of this and invested in technology for the betterment of the students in long term development of student in recruitment process and sustainability in the job .A momentous task has been taken and to accomplish this MePro Pearson, an online course was introduced for all the first B. Tech. students and faculty members from English department were given the task of monitoring the progress of each and every student. As the student passes each and every level, they will acquire the practical knowledge which is apt to the requirements of contemporary competitive world.

MePro is a feedback based English language enhancement learner friendly tool that betters the learners' chances of employability and career development. It provides the levels with the real world scenarios with engaging content, illustrated themes, measurable outcomes, adaptable learning, badges connecting the learners to real & global recruitments accepted by corporate industries, mapped to the Global Scale of English which has back-end virtual evaluation software. MePro allows the beginners to take a diagnostic test and map the learners' current English proficiency level and eventually, provides the platform with suitable themes and role-plays with regular assessment to calibrate the learners' learning and progress to the next level.

The evaluation is done in a certain procedure and a universally accepted measurement scale is being followed by the MePro software.





A diagnostic test is taken at each level to evaluate LSRW skill, map the current level of proficiency either in any of the above levels and gradually they can progress to each and every level .At every level students need to score 70% above, if their score is below 70% they will take remedial classes on the skills they are lacking. After completing all the levels the student can connect to the real-world job. This certificate is an added advantage in the recruitment process and it is accepted by all the corporative Industries.

G. Pulla Reddy Engineering college has taken the opportunity for implementation of English language improvement tool of MePro Pearson a learning soft ware

**LITERATURE SURVEY:**

Lynn et al opines that the teacher culture diverse removes the disparity of belief and moves further for the success of the student’s quality learning [1].According to Krista Francis and Michele Jacobsen online learning supports builds up knowledge and collaborative learning using technology [2]. According to Fatih Oguz, knowledge sharing through collaborative learning tries to achieve organizational goal where they are able to learn skills, ideal and perspective learning[3]. Anna Sun and Xiufang Chen in their study mentions that the institutions that want explore online education are fast-growing and believe that technology should be used as a companion for individual institutions so as to accomplish their vision and mission [4]. Spiros Protopsaltis and Sandy Baum states that online course helps in explosive growth and quality education is a promise to achieve success by week academic students and for different back ground people [5]. According to Karen Swan research on online learning there are five pillars to achieve quality in online learning, these are learning effectiveness, faculty satisfaction, student satisfaction, access, and cost effectiveness [6]. According to Chia-Wen Tsa students can improve their learning performance and personal behavior through theoretical, practical, and technically by attending an online course in addition to classroom teaching[7]. According to Rebecca Van de Vord and Korolyn Pogue , technology is advancing along with increase in mainstreaming of online learning and students can experience in learning advance courses with better institutional support [8]. The reasons for having online education are to increase access to learning and training as a matter of impartiality and make the availability of opportunities for updating skills of the workforce and progress the quality of education structure ,enhance competence,

and avoid inequalities between students and append international dimension to the educational experience as per Moore [9].

According to Di Xu and Shanna Smith Jaggars, Online course is an indispensable strategy as it improves flexibility for both students and institutions and expands educational opportunities[10]. Ministry of Human Resource Development and Department of Higher Education states that quality assurance at individual institutions and curriculum standards will ensure students for updating their knowledge. Online courses can help in real time detection of dissatisfied students as well as encouraging students to increase retention rate and results shows in eliminating difficulties, and useful guide line for course design[11]. According to Lydia R. Frass states that more institutions have moved to on line courses and increased the chance for being more successful and create positive learning for students and create new environment for learning[12] According to Panagiotis Adamopoulos, online education can be helpful for real time detection of dissatisfied student as well as design a better to engage students that will increase retention rates[13]. According to P.Haripriya[14], Knowledge management practices in technical education using ICT tool is the best practice to inculcate technology with learning process and much of research is done in Rayalaseema region. According to Pourhossein Gilakjani, A., Sabouri, N. B[15]. Pronunciation power software has provided opportunity for teacher to change their roles from teachers- centered to students –centered as a result student will be self responsible for his/her own development and here technology plays a key role as a facilitator of knowledge .

### Objectives

The primary aim of the research is to evaluate the level of acquisition by the students and the use of information and communication technological tools in knowledge management .

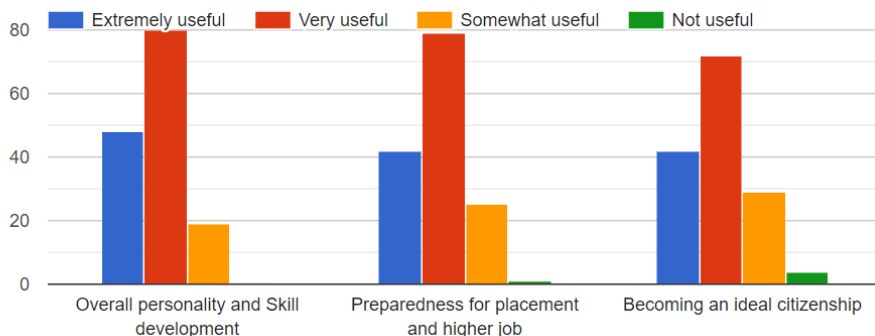
1. To analyze the role of student engaged in online learning.
2. To know the challenges for enhancing online course from students' point of view
3. To know the Factors supporting students for online learning
4. To analyze the Techniques for improvement of a student engaged in online learning
5. To analyze the adequacy in recognizing online course as a Platform for Students' improvement.

### Students engaged in online learning for different goals

Opinion Test/Results	Extremely useful	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Not useful	Total
Overall personality and Skill development	79	156	39	0	274
Preparedness for placement and higher job	64	157	50	3	274
Becoming an ideal citizenship	72	142	51	9	274

From the above table we can clearly see that when student is engaged in online learning, he/she can succeed with overall personality development. Irrespective of the hurdles that a student faces in offline platform such as time constraints, unity of place, it is evident that the user can surpass all these physical barriers and concentrate solely on the professional development. Thus we can say it reduces psychological barrier of speaking, reading and writing process.

Did MePro Pearson engage Students in online learning successfully?

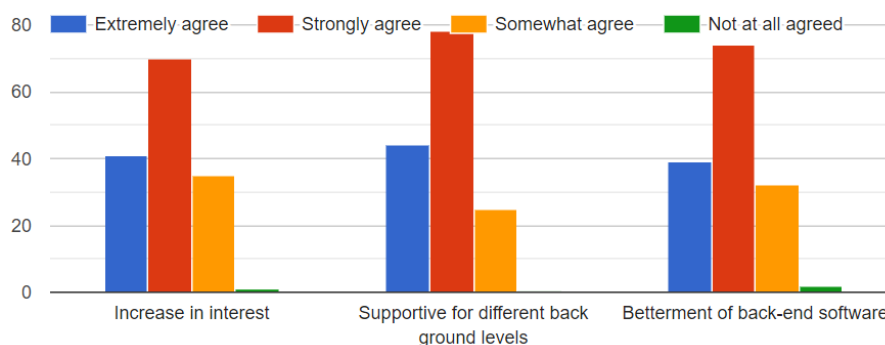


Challenge for enhancing online course from students point of view

Opinion	Extremely agree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Not at all agreed	Total
Increase in interest	69	131	72	2	274
Supportive for different back ground levels	77	142	55	0	274
Betterment of backend software	68	142	59	5	274

From the above table it is understood that MePro strongly supports a student from a different background level. Unlike the offline conventional classroom, the student will be exposed to different difficulty levels in the acquisition process and will be given scope to develop in his/her own pace and the level of grasping power. As a beneficial note, the software adapts itself in the way of Students’ learning process, who possesses different background levels. Thus everyone is equally competitive to enter the future workforce for employability and carrier development.

Challenges for enhancing online course from Students' point of view.



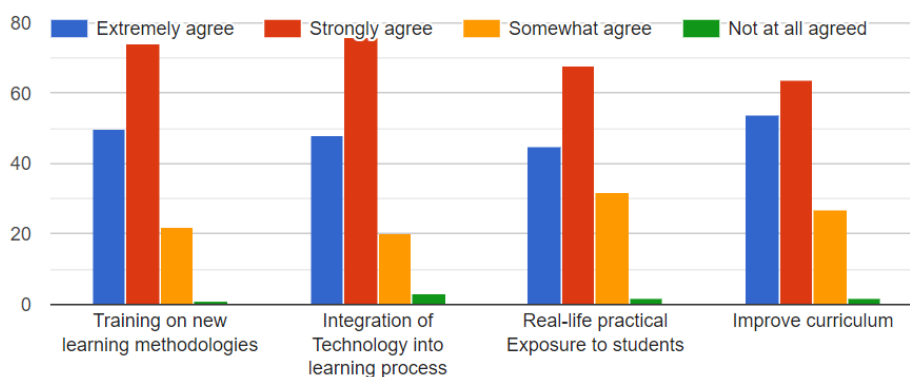
Factors supporting students for online learning

Opinion	Extremely agree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Not at all agreed	Total
Training on new learning methodologies	83	140	49	2	274
Integration of Technology into Teaching	78	151	39	6	274

Real-life practical Exposure to students	69	139	64	2	274
Improved curriculum and assessment framework	90	125	55	4	274

From the above table it is observed that students are interested in integration of technology into teaching and learning process. Considering the local and the academic factors, the student cannot experience everything in the stipulated academic course. It is evident that MePro Pearson’s software aids in providing the practical experience and expose the students to various technical and corporate contexts with the help of blended technologies. Thus it is believed that it’s a perfect blend with technology to provide a holistic learning solution with interactive content to enhance the knowledge of students.

Factors supporting Students for online learning

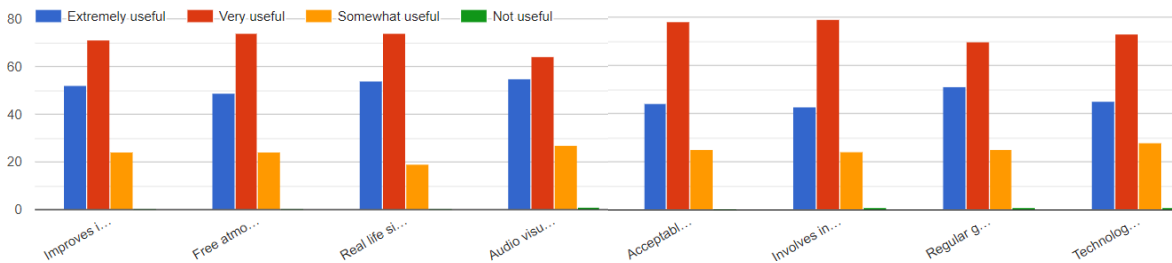


Techniques for improvement of a student engaged in online learning

Opinion	Extremely Useful	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Not useful	Total
Participating in Group Discussion activities	86	140	48		274
Free atmosphere to learn new lessons	84	145	45		274
Real life situation with Examples	90	146	38		274
Audio visual -content	89	126	57	2	274
Acceptable level for improvement	70	154	50		
Involves in collaborative learning (classroom learning and online learning)	66	157	51		
Regular guide lines of a teacher	84	140	48	2	274
Technology platform to improve student and teacher interaction	76	139	59		274

From the above table it is evident that when a student is engaged in online learning he/she feels to get involved in collaborative learning (classroom learning and online learning). A student centered classroom is always advisable in the current educational system but being a practical researcher, it is not always possible to inculcate the student centered classroom in the fast paced result oriented education system. By keeping the facts into consideration, MePro Pearson can be the one click solution for the students who are provided with the collaborative learning, making all the important things possible. It is evident that a student will be equipped with the knowledge and the employable skills which are in demand for near future work force.

Techniques for the improvement of a student engaged in online learning.

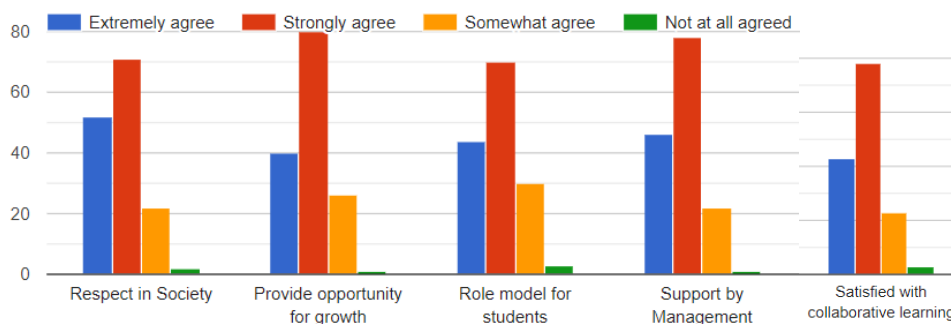


Adequacy in recognizing Online course as a Platform for Students improvement

Opinion	Extremely agree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Not at all agreed
Respect in Society	79	142	49	4
Provide opportunity for growth	60	162	50	2
Role model for students	69	133	65	7
Support by Management	75	147	50	2
Satisfied with collaborative learning	74	154	42	4

From the above it's clear that students have recognized online course as a platform to provide an opportunity for growth. Acquisition of knowledge is majorly based on the visual aids in teaching process and the rest of the part is based on the audio presentation. Keeping the current classroom in view, the visual aids are not completely successful in the conventional classroom unlike the MePro Software. It has been built in such a way that it has incorporated a blend of audio and visual aids which helps the learner in the growth of their professional and employability skills. Thus it is a platform to learn, improve and enable students for a continuous learning process.

Adequacy in recognizing Online course as a Platform for Students improvement.



Results: The findings from the students response on the use of ICT –MePro software for second language acquisition ,the study revealed that

- when a student is engaged in online learning ,he/she can be succeeded with overall personality development(156 ).Thus we can say it reduces psychological barrier of speaking, reading and writing process.
- The challenges for enhancing on line course from students point of view ( 142 ). Thus everyone is equally competitive to enter the future workforce for employability and carrier development.
- The factors that support students for online learning(151). Thus we can say it's a perfect blend with technology to provide a holistic learning solution with interactive content to enhance the knowledge of students.
- Techniques for improvement of a student engaged in online learning(157). It is evident that a student will be equipped with the knowledge and the employable skills which are in demand for near future work force
- Adequacy in recognizing Online course as a Platform for Students improvement(162). Thus it is a platform to learn, improve and enable students for a continuous learning process

### Conclusions:

Pearson a leader in education has developed new technologies and MePro is one among them through which a student can learn English language with and comfort. This plays a major role for social improvement and reduce inequality, affordability. Hence can achieve sustainable goals in the fast changing digitalized world and is trusted by Universities and colleges .

G. Pulla Reddy Engineering college has utilized this opportunity and has introduced Pearson MePro ,a tool to learn English language .This shows the management vision in understanding the needs of a student and this will sharpen the skills of the students and provide wide scope for placements .

### References:

- [1] Lynn a. Bryan, mary m. Atwater” Teacher Beliefs and Cultural Models: A Challenge for Science Teacher Preparation Programs” science teacher education Deborah Trumbull, section editor. 18 January 2002
- [2] Krista Francis and Michele Jacobsen” Synchronous Online Collaborative Professional Development for Elementary Mathematics Teachers” The International review of research in open and distant learning.
- [3] Fatih Oguz , Corrie V. Marsh , and Cliff Landis “Collaboration through Communities of Practice in the Digital Age” 2nd International Symposium on Information Management in a Changing World. Volume 96 CCIS, 2010, Pages 18-30
- [4] Anna Sun and Xiufang Chen Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ, USA” Online Education and Its Effective Practice: A Research Review” Journal of Information Technology Education: Research Volume 15, 2016
- [5] Spiros Protopsaltis and Sandy Baumi ” does online education live up to its promise? a look at the evidence and implications for federal policy” January 2019

- 
- [6] Karen Swan"research on online learning"Research Center for Educational Technology Kent State University.pp55-59
- [7] Chia-Wen Tsai" Research Papers in Online Learning Performance and Behaviour" International Review of Research in Open and Distributed Learning Volume 17, Number 1
- [8] Rebecca Van de Vord and Korolyn Pogue" Teaching Time Investment: Does Online Really Take More Time than Face-to-Face? Washington State University, USAJune – 2012
- [9] Moore, M., & Kearsley, G. (2012). Distance education: A systems view of online learning (3rd ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
- [10] Di Xu and Shanna Smith Jaggars" Adaptability to Online Learning: Differences Across Types of Students and Academic Subject Areas" February 20135.
- [11]. Ministry of Human Resource Development Department of Higher Education- MOOCs Massive Open Online Courses An initiative under National Mission on Education through Information Communication Technology (NME-ICT) Programme
- [12] Lydia R. Frass, Ryan D. Rucker and Gloria Washington," An Overview of How Four Institutions Prepare Faculty to Teach Online" Journal of Online Higher Education vol. 1, no. 1/2017
- [13]Panagiotis Adamopoulos, what makes a great mooc? an interdisciplinary analysis of student retention in online courses" Thirty Fourth International Conference on Information Systems, Milan 2013 pp1-21
- [14]P.Haripriya, Knowledge Management Practices in Technical Educational Institutions using ICT Tools: A Study of Rayalaseema Region in Andhra Pradesh, Journal of Engineering and Applied Sciences,Vol14,pp 8569-8575.
- [15] Pourhossein Gilakjani, A., & Sabouri, N. B. (2017). Advantages of using computer in teaching English pronunciation. International Journal of Research in English Education (IJREE), 2(3), pp-78-85. doi:10.18869/acadpub.ijree.2.3.78