

## **Teaching-Learning Process in Geography: Learning through Information Technology**

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) influences how students make sense of their world today and at the same time offers a range of tools to support their geographical understanding. Specific programs such as Google Earth can improve spatial thinking. The internet enables, students to gain up-to-date information and access to a vast range of images, videos, data and other sources which can greatly enrich geographical understanding. By the use of IT, teachers have the power to make lessons livelier and enjoyable thus enhancing students' learning motivation. Geography teachers should provide students adequate opportunities to apply ICT in their enquiry-based approach to the teaching of the subject. This is because ICT:

- 1) Provides a range of information sources to enhance geographical understanding and supports the development of a body of geographical knowledge.

- 2) Provides images of people, places and environments and helps students develop their ideas using ICT tools to amend and refine their work and enhance its quality and accuracy.
- 3) Helps students exchange and share information, both directly and through electronic media.
- 4) Provides students with the ability to review, modify and evaluate their works, reflecting critically on their quality as they progress.
- 5) Contributes to students' awareness of the impact of information systems on the changing world.
- 6) Contributes substantially to the development of a range of ICT capabilities, especially in regard to data handling, use of communication technologies and information sources and modelling.
- 7) Develops the students' skills in the following ICT toolkit namely word processor; spreadsheet; presentation software; desktop publishing (DTP) software; internet browser/e-mail; electronic atlas; electronic encyclopaedia; geographic information system (GIS); automatic data logging weather station; digital camera.

It is apparent that with the introduction of integration of ICT in teaching, more time and resources should be invested in preparing the

teacher-trainees for the tasks ahead of them on using the advanced approaches. Emphasis in training should focus on the integration of ICT and use of more practical approaches in the teaching and learning of geography i.e. practiced during the professional career for the benefit of learners.

Nevertheless, geography as a discipline must seek to offer geographical knowledge and perspectives that encourage valuable research and teaching on matters of training from environmental change to social conflict. Appropriate strategies of teaching and learning such as problem solving, small groups' discussions, field work, projects participation and co-operate learning should be embraced thereof. Teacher trainees in colleges therefore, should be trained vividly to handle learners in schools to be able to learn content that meets the desires of the learner and the immediate environment. The pre-service teacher training programs should help the students develop attitudes of accountability, social responsibility and personal care and concern for the environment.