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# Information and Communications Technologies in the teaching-learning process

Las Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones en el proceso de enseñanzaaprendizaje

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# Abstract

**Introduction:** Information and communications technologies are applied as resources and tools for learning, while retaining, processing and transmitting digital information.

**Objective:** Support the use of Information and Communications Technologies in the teaching-learning process.

**Methods:** A search for scientific information was carried out on the Internet during the month of March 2024. It was carried out in the Hospital Epidemiology Department of the Pediatric Hospital of Camaguey. It was structured in four stage; planning, design-management, analysis and elaboration-formalization. The analysis included 25 scientific articles and the prism statement was taken into account.

**Development:** New technologies constitute a fundamental pillar in today's modern world, since their evolution over time has favored educational systems. It is a new way of learning and teaching through channels of communication and exchange between students and teachers. Promote

interaction in a more autonomous way, improve learning and promote the acquisition of skills. With then, students can have a more leading role, to the point of becoming the architect of the educational process.

**Conclusions:** The scientific advance that society id going through implies changes in educational activity. The diversity of scenarios, contexts and trend in educational impose new roles on the training process, which imply challenges for the professional of the future, the institutions, and the teachers in charge of their training.

Keywords: information technology; computer literacy; educational technology.

### Resumen

**Introducción:** Las Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones se aplican como recursos y herramientas para el aprendizaje, mientras retienen, procesan y transmiten información digital.

**Objetivos:** Fundamentar la utilización de las Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones en el proceso enseñanza-aprendizaje.

**Métodos:** Se realizó una búsqueda de información científica en Internet durante el mes de marzo del 2024. La misma se llevó a cabo en el Departamento de Epidemiología Hospitalaria del Hospital Pediátrico de Camagüey. Se estructuró en cuatro etapas; planeación, diseño-gestión, análisis y elaboración-formalización. El análisis comprendió 25 artículos científicos y se tuvo en cuenta la Declaración Prisma.

**Desarrollo:** Las nuevas tecnologías constituyen un pilar fundamental en el mundo moderno actual, pues su evolución a través del tiempo ha favorecido a los sistemas educativos. Se trata de una nueva forma de aprender y de enseñar mediante canales de comunicación e intercambio entre estudiantes y profesores. Promueven la interacción de forma más autónoma, mejora los aprendizajes y favorece la adquisición de habilidades. Con ellas, los estudiantes pueden tener un rol más protagónico, al punto de convertirse en el propio artífice del proceso educativo.

**Conclusiones:** El avance científico por el que transita la sociedad implica cambios en la actividad educativa. La diversidad de escenarios, contextos y tendencias en la educación imponen nuevos roles al proceso formativo, los que implican retos para el profesional del futuro, de las instituciones, y de los docentes encargados de su formación.

Palabras clave: Tecnología de la información; alfabetización informática; tecnología educativa.

## Introduction

Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) are resources, tools, equipment, computer programs, applications, networks and media; that allow the compilation, processing, storage and transmission of information. They do this through voice messages, data, texts, videos and images; which are used to solve problems or make daily activities easier and adapt to the environment.<sup>(1,2)</sup>

The main ICTs used in our environment include networks, devices and services. The first includes fixed and mobile telephone networks, broadband, television, and others in the home. In the latter, reference can be made to computers, smart phones and television, video game consoles, to name a few. Likewise, the services include emails, information search, cloud services, streaming, and social networks.<sup>(3,4)</sup>

Several authors (1,3,5) refer in relation to the origin of ICTs to two great advances, the telegraph and the telephone, which appeared during the 19th century. The evolution continued with another great advance, television, whose first broadcast was made in 1925, while color television appeared in the 1940s.<sup>(4)</sup>

During the 1960s and 1970s, the first computers were created, with enormous dimensions, in an experimental format. Rehearsals began on what would later become the Internet. Between 1970 and 1990, the concept of ICT emerged, which led to the integration of computing in communications with the arrival of the first computers and mobile phones.<sup>(6)</sup>

From 1990 to the present day, the evolution of ICT has marked a milestone worldwide, as Internet connections are growing more and more, as well as computers becoming faster and more powerful. Mobile phones have evolved over generations with the possibility of access without limitations, through personal digital assistants or through smartphones, which marked the emergence of the digital revolution, currently developing.<sup>(7)</sup>

Given that there are almost 5 billion mobile phones around the world, the reach of ICTs is increasingly global. Countries like the United States and China dominate the market, as they present a concentrated and competitive sector. Its companies show the highest capitalization levels in the world. Other countries, such as Sweden, Singapore, Switzerland and South Korea, are also ready for cutting-edge technologies.<sup>(8,9)</sup>

In Latin America, Brazil and Chile appear as the most developed countries, with important advances in the use of ICTs. In the Caribbean, Barbados and Saint Kitts and Nevis are the most advanced in this regard. Although Cuba is among the territories that use ICTs the least, in the last 10 years their massive use has been promoted, especially in the areas of education.<sup>(10)</sup>

The above allows the contextualization of the intention expressed in guideline 122 of the 8th Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) related to: "Advance the computerization of the education system." It facilitates the development of services in the use of the telematic network and educational technology in a rational manner, as well as the generation of digital and audiovisual content.<sup>(11)</sup>

The most recent experience comes from the confrontation with COVID-19, where the management of digitalized databases and the use of computer systems for government strategies was necessary. The information obtained through these resources made it possible to analyze the epidemiological situation and make timely decisions. In this way, various educational activities were carried out in all teachings with the use of technologies.<sup>(12)</sup>

In general, the introduction and use of ICTs has meant a dizzying leap in scientific and technical development. Based on the aforementioned, it was decided to carry out this review article with the objective of substantiating the use of Information and Communications Technologies in the teaching-learning process.

### Methods

A search for scientific information was carried out on the Internet during the month of March 2024. It was carried out in the Department of Hospital Epidemiology of the Pediatric Hospital of Camagüey. It was structured in four stages; planning, design-management, analysis and elaborationformalization.

The articles were obtained from the Scopus, SciELO, DOAJ and Latindex databases. The descriptors information technology, computer literacy, educational technology, and the logical Boolean operator OR were used. In the same way, original, review and position articles were consulted, regarding the titles and their summaries, to verify that they were in accordance with the stated objective. Once analyzed, a total of 25 articles were chosen, based on the following eligibility criteria:

#### **Inclusion criteria**

- Articles published after 2020.
- Reviews with access to the full text.
- Articles in Spanish and English languages.
- Authors of different nationalities.

#### **Exclusion criteria**

- Articles in which there is no history of peer review.

- Publications made on platforms other than scientific journals.

- Duplicate articles.

The topics to be discussed were related to ICT and education (advantages and disadvantages), ICT and its link with higher education, medical education, as well as with COVID-19 and the role of the teacher. To prepare this review, the principles contained in the Prism Declaration were followed.<sup>(13)</sup>

#### **Development**

ICTs and education. Advantages and disadvantages.

Starting in the 1960s, the development of computing consolidated the use of computers for educational purposes, specifically in applications such as computer-assisted teaching. In the mid-80s, experiments began with the implementation of computers in classrooms. This has generated a significant change in educational processes and methods, with the transition from the use of books and blackboards to computers, digital whiteboards and tablets, among others.<sup>(14)</sup>

Science and technology become increasingly demanding and innovative in different spheres of social life. Consequently, it is necessary for the educational community to update itself in the field of ICT; which are fundamental in the teaching-learning processes of today's society. They allow access to multiple information from one site to another, and, consequently, the development of skills and abilities of those who use it.<sup>(10,12)</sup>

It is then specified that the creative use of ICT is nothing more than the ingenious and own performance that each teacher has when precisely managing this technological tool in the contents and skills to be developed. The teacher must find points of union between creativity and education through alternative, diverse and stimulating spaces.<sup>(10)</sup>

The evolution and growth of ICTs is due above all to the large number of advantages they bring to the teaching-learning process. Among them, the broad access to information and educational resources, the development of creativity, encourages curiosity and attention, as well as developing autonomy and self-learning stand out. Likewise, it encourages psychomotor development, facilitates collaborative learning, introduces technology and prepares for the future.<sup>(15)</sup>

Technologies are not perfect, just as they provide multiple benefits in education, they also present some drawbacks to take into account. In this sense, distractions and lack of attention can be cited, excessive impacts, reduces the development of other skills and generates the consumption of false information. Likewise, it can lead to the theft of personal data, reduces human contact and amplifies bullying.<sup>(16)</sup>

#### ICTs and higher education

The digital era transforms social networks, which is why educational centers must face this challenge. In this regard, higher education is called to promote student recognition of the value and usefulness of the technological resources offered by ICTs. To give greater pedagogical and didactic usefulness to these tools, universities must carry out teacher training processes in which the development of technological competencies in teachers is guaranteed.<sup>(17)</sup>

These technological tools are essential in higher educational institutions. Their techniques allow new possibilities for teaching by opening communication channels that allow them to exchange ideas with students.<sup>(18)</sup>

The training and use of ICTs in university education helps to extract the best results from each student, as they manage to foster an active attitude in each subject thanks to the new content. Tools such as virtual reality, robotics, simulations, video games, programming, among others, help learn through play.<sup>(14)</sup>

Universities must expand their educational offerings through online teaching, which promotes learning in a comfortable and economical way.<sup>(5)</sup>

In the educational field, it is about exploring, understanding and adapting the multifunctionalities that ICTs offer to improve the teaching-learning process. At present, a new term called TAC (Learning and Knowledge Technologies) is incorporated, which goes beyond learning, it is committed to exploring technological tools at the service of learning and the acquisition of knowledge.<sup>(16)</sup>

At the same time, multiple educational proposals and resources based on ICT have increased. These include massive open online courses, seamless learning, mobile learning, learning environments, among others. This allows students and teachers to access a wealth of tools and information in all fields of education to learn, teach and share.<sup>(9)</sup>

#### **ICTs and COVID-19**

During the COVID-19 confinement, the use of ICTs worldwide increased considerably. This situation has been taken advantage of and the advances should not be left aside, so the cognitive and instrumental implementation of these resources is urgently needed without detaching from the pedagogical purposes.<sup>(8,14)</sup>

To carry out classes in virtual classrooms, education has had to reinvent itself, a situation faced by teachers, who have seen the need or obligation to use ICT to teach. <sup>(19)</sup>

The universities that have not had problems in the development of virtual work are those that in their training policies had considered the use of ICT as part of their educational model. In this framework, in order to give continuity to the teaching-educational process, teachers held conferences on different platforms, live or recorded, exams were posted on web pages, among others.<sup>(20)</sup>

Specifically, teachers have had to adapt to current conditions, where the use of ICT has been crucial to not stop students' learning. However, knowing how to use technologies is not synonymous with knowing how to teach with them and nor does it imply an increase in the students' abilities to learn, since it is not enough to know how to use ICTs if one does not know how to teach with them in the context where students must learn.<sup>(21)</sup>

In Cuba, ICTs have allowed an important change in the educational field, since it facilitates knowledge, participatory methods, use of various educational platforms in which creative strategies are used that allow obtaining quality students. In this sense, the aim is to provide feedback to accompanied teachers on their performance through the communication area, to strengthen established professional competencies.<sup>(17)</sup>

In addition, a reflection is provided on the importance of digital technologies in students' learning with communicative expression workshops. It is stated that by updating digital tools it was possible to improve teaching-learning and maximize learning performance in graduated classrooms.<sup>(15)</sup>

#### **ICT's. Use and management in educational processes**

The epidemiological isolation caused by COVID-19 has brought with it a series of challenges for teachers, since they have been forced to move classes from physical to virtual presence. Teachers have had to adapt to current conditions, where the use of ICT has been crucial to not stop students' learning. However, knowing how to use technologies is not synonymous with knowing how to teach with them and nor does it imply an increase in the students' learning capabilities (in the event that they could have access to them and use them), since It is not enough to know how to use ICTs if you do not know how to teach with them in the context where students must learn.<sup>(7)</sup>

Several authors,<sup>(6,9,14)</sup> recommend digital tools for distance communication, dividing them into three categories, namely: chats (WhatsApp and institutional email), which allow sending and receiving messages, among other functionalities; learning management systems (Google Classroom and Edmodo), which allow teachers to organize the content of their courses, track assignments and communicate with students; and, finally, videos or videoconferences (YouTube, Google Meets, Zoom and Skype).<sup>(15)</sup>

Regarding the latter, reference is made to video as an excellent means of generating interest in students and videoconferences, for their part, enable greater interaction with the student body. Additionally, certain criteria of good practices for having a successful class are explained and encourages teachers to investigate and test the tools before extending their use to the home.<sup>(16)</sup>

Possessing tools to teach through ICT does not guarantee student learning. It is suggested that there are difficulties that are due to different factors, such as design errors in the materials used or the lack of pedagogical and computer preparation on the part of the teachers. There are also limitations

related to the application of ICT in teaching processes, basically regarding the availability of adequate resources to establish an appropriate and efficient technological platform.<sup>(18,21)</sup>

There is no clear evidence of a positive impact of technologies on learning. This is because, on various occasions, the results in research products are contradictory and obtained in specific circumstances, so a generalization could not be made. On the other hand, university students give ICT significant importance from the point of view of entertainment and access to information, but they do not value them to the same extent as effective and useful tools in their academic training as future teachers.<sup>(17)</sup>

An effect related to the use of ICTs indicates that the concept of "technostress" corresponds to one of the negative psychosocial effects of its use, warning that exposure to these technologies influences the psychosocial well-being of the person, both positively and negatively.<sup>(19)</sup>

Students continue to see the interaction produced in person as an advantage, unlike that which occurs through ICT. Furthermore, it is possible to assume that students find it more comfortable not having to adapt to new technological resources, due to the time and effort that this entails.<sup>(4,7,9)</sup>

It is important to mention that there are large technological gaps in the access and use of ICTs, with high levels of inequality between socioeconomic segments, age groups, educated and illiterate people. The above would constitute one of the great disadvantages of the development of ICTs.<sup>(10,12)</sup>

In addition, there are also disadvantages related to the lack of privacy, possible fraud, social isolation, among other phenomena, due to the misuse that can be given to the technology. Likewise, it is necessary to consider the statements of the European Commission, which warns of the danger of overvaluing the potential of ICTs as agents of innovation and recommends readjusting people's expectations about what they can achieve with these technologies.<sup>(17,18,21)</sup>

#### ICTs and the role of the teacher

Several authors refer to the fact that ICT has not been given sufficient priority in Latin America, since there is an underuse of these technologies in the region, especially within the classroom. Although there are many reasons that contribute to this trend, the most significant is that teachers do not have good training in the use of ICT for pedagogical purposes.<sup>(22)</sup>

Teaching processes should lead to serious reflection by teachers on the importance of knowing the appropriate use that should be given to ICT to achieve its integration into education. That is, a change must be generated regarding the conception of the use of ICT in terms of what and why to use them.<sup>(23)</sup>

The proposed standards were organized according to three different didactic approaches: basic notion of ICT, deepening of knowledge and knowledge management. These guidelines aimed to develop the

ICT competencies of teachers, from simple daily use and management, to their use to launch and evaluate projects with remote and permanent work groups.<sup>(21)</sup>

Without a doubt, it is necessary for teachers to know and use ICT, which, especially in the current situation, are increasingly requested by schools. It is important to allow those who do not have ICT skills the possibility of acquiring them and that those who already have them can reinforce them.<sup>(24)</sup>

In this paradigm of digital transformation, educational services and teachers must adapt, improve their knowledge and skills to face this reality. Likewise, they must make their knowledge available to the educational system and implement it, either as a support instrument, or as a complement to ordinary education, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the educational system, key in this digital era for the development of the society of the future.<sup>(22)</sup>

Now, this scenario, which, although it may represent a weakness in having to break the teaching digital divide, is offered as an opportunity in the educational field, for teachers and students.<sup>(25)</sup>

#### Conclusions

The scientific advance that society is going through implies changes in educational activity. The diversity of scenarios, contexts and trends in education impose new roles on the training process, which imply challenges for the professional of the future, the institutions, and the teachers in charge of their training.

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#### **Conflict of interests**

The authors declare that does not exist an interest conflict.

#### Author contributions

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