



Education and Skills Development

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## Making technology work

Information and communication technology (ICT) in schools has been widely promoted on the basis that it has the potential to improve and diversify learning. The South African government has recognised this fact in the [2004 White Paper](#) on e-education, as well as the Department of Basic Education's [Action Plan to 2019](#). In this month's issue, we explore the use of technology in South African schools, the challenges associated with the adoption of innovations and how technology can be used to improve education in the country.

### Reflections on using technology as a teaching tool successfully

Technology has the potential to improve educational quality, but its use in South African schools does not always support teaching and learning. George Frempong reflects on [three of the challenges](#) experienced in introducing a new technological innovation in schools.

### Calculating achievement

Although calculators are a useful tool for assisting learners to solve complex problems, overreliance on them may lead to diminished capabilities of learners in mathematics. The newest member of our team, PhD Intern Ncamisile Zulu, and Andrea Juan shed some light on the [pros and cons of calculator usage](#) in the classroom.

### Ground breaking innovation to improve teaching and assessment practices

A team of researchers from the HSRC, developed and piloted a technological innovation called TARMIIfp, which was intended to support South African Foundation Phase teachers in their teaching and assessment practices. The [highlights document](#) reports on the experiences of developing and piloting the TARMIIfp software.

### Desperate to be digital

One of our previous blogs by Tia Linda Zuze examined the merits of using technology, as schools are becoming [desperate to be digital](#); and considered whether this is an appropriate intervention for improving the quality of education in South Africa.

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