

X-Changery in homecare - can technological literacy improve nurses' use of ICT?

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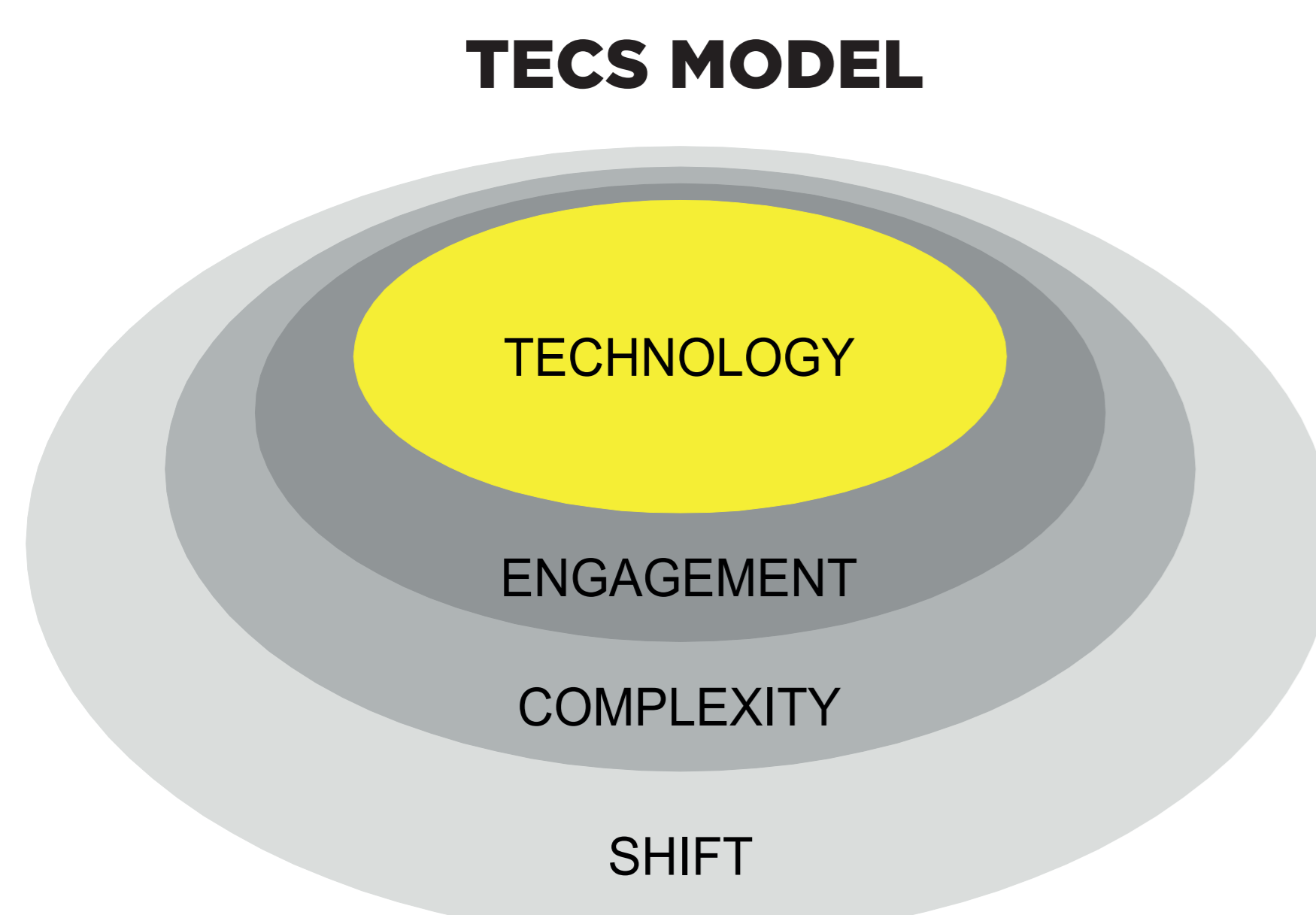
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Introduction

The TECS model is developed within the framework of the Danish research program Technucation. The TECS model, based on empirical data, describes a theory of technological literacy in the nursing profession, and comprises four elements: 'New Technology', 'Engagement with technology in practice', 'Complex trajectories of technologies in organizations' and 'Professionalism and Technologies'. Technological literacy is defined as the ability to assess and analyze these four elements and interactions. The TECS theory can contribute to creating possibilities for practitioners to gain a socio-material understanding of technologies in the workplace.

X-Changery has been established with the aim of applying the TECS model and testing it in a real-life situation with a group of home nurses in a Danish municipality. This took place from September 2014 to February 2015.



Purpose with X-Changery

- Working with TECS model as an analytical tool
- Exchange of experiences in relation to technologies influence in working life
- Focus on how ICT technologies influence on the relation between nurse, patient and the relatives

Methods

Qualitative studies: Field work, observations and focus group interviews with all homecare nurses in a Danish municipality

Lab methodology: 2 Learning labs during the project period

Quantitative methods: Self efficacy test

Results

- The nurses achieved an active use of technologies: Deselecting now happens on a critical and reflective basis
- The iPad was a disturbing technology before X-Changery. Afterwards, the nurses express the opposite opinion: iPad is a requirement as a tool in homecare
- Some of the nurses are now demanding more training and knowledge about the use of iPad – especially the nurses, that didn't use it before
- It has become legitimate to talk about own limited knowledge and competencies
- There is a new awareness in relation to how iPad influences the professionalism and affects the organization of work
- Higher demands on how new technologies will be introduced in the future

Conclusion

- The TECS model sets focus upon the needs of the professionals as receivers and users of technology, and their ability to understand, not simply its influence and how best it can be adopted, but also focus on how the technologies **influence the professions**
- The TECS model can be used to **establish common knowledge** about how technologies influence professional practice
- It is not a question of being able to master one specific technology, but being able, in general terms, to **understand and analyze** the impact of technologies.

References

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