

Enriching the English Language Skills of Students from Vernacular Mediums

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Abstract: *The present research paper aims at enriching the English Language Skills of Students across India. It has been observed that there is a great demand for Indian professionals around the world. Every year thousands of students enter the vocational arena as job seekers. India has always taken an initiative in achieving excellence in education, technology, agricultural and industrial development at the national as well as international level. In today's global situation, these students, not only require subject knowledge but also need to develop English language skills and soft skills to accelerate in academic and professional life. Every year these students, some from vernacular medium schools and with vernacular speaking backgrounds strive hard to match the standards of other English medium school students. It becomes essential for them to improve their communicative competence which is reflected in their demeanor and behavior. In such situations, the role of teachers who teach English language becomes challenging. The paper tries to explore challenges faced by the English teachers in teaching students from vernacular mediums and also offers few techniques or strategies which may help them to improve their English Language Skills.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Communication is exchanging or sharing information mutually and over a platform. This is one of the most sort after skills for any individual to survive in society and be recognized for his or her academic and professional competence. Students acquire subject knowledge both theoretical and practical during their tenure in academic institutions. This acquired knowledge should fetch them good social and economic recognition. Hence, they have to exhibit their knowledge to the world through their skill of communicating and exhibiting their ideas on a wider platform. Moreover, good communication also builds a good relationship with people in the profession field and is also very important for career development.

It is rightly said that good communication skill is an application of knowledge. Language is a tool of communication and to cater to a wider audience internationally the language used should be of the masses. English has over the years has been used as a tool for communication nationally as well as internationally. Hence to improve communicative competence in the current globalized environment students should be well versed with communicating in English. Communicative competence is nothing, but it is one's capacity to use language effectively and appropriately. Lack of English Language Skills can become an obstacle in the development of personal as well as professional development of an individual. It may be noted that students from vernacular mediums face more difficulties in expressing themselves and sharing their knowledge. Therefore, it can be said that English Language Skills has a great significance in getting jobs and expressing knowledge with confidence. Enriching students with English language communication is more challenging for the teachers than the students. The main objective of this study is to focus on the tools and methods to develop and improve language skills of professionals in the country by correlating growing needs of the industries with the academic input.

The initiatives taken by the various universities and boards is to develop task-based activities and exercises are meticulously planned in the curriculum to develop and improve the language skills of the students and provide them with a more interactive platform.

II. CHALLENGES FOR THE ENGLISH TEACHING FACULTY IN COLLEGES

The *National Commission on Education* – 1964-66 described English as ‘a library language’ and a language of higher education. This library language over a period of six decades has become a language of schools and higher education. But the students demand equal stature and recognition as per that given to any technical or vocational subject. But students do not give the subject its due by neglecting achieving expertise in it like any other skill or technical course. This is the main hurdle and a shortcoming on the parts of students. They do not realize that the tool to achieve technical expertise is first learning the language it is delivered in. Therefore, the attitudes of such students need a paradigm shift.

English language as a profession needs to be planned for complementing other Indian languages in a diverse and multilingual country like India. However, meeting the social demand for upward mobility is seen as a major challenge given the diversity in curriculum planning and implementation. Typology of higher education institutes and the quality of English language teaching could be seen as the determinants of English language environment in schools and colleges.

III. SUGGESTIONS FOR ENRICHING LANGUAGE SKILLS AND SOLUTIONS FOR CHALLENGES

English as a language is one of the most popular languages across the globe. While propagating the use of English in schools and colleges one important point to be noted is the peer pressure associated with it. This is due to the discomfort associated with English. It is seen that students while interacting with each other are mostly comfortable communicating in their mother tongue.

So, the cultivation of English should be at the grass root level and then and then only the fear associated with it will evaporate. Also, extracurricular activities like debates elocutions etc. should be promoted in Institutes with credits attached to the which will encourage students to participate in these activities. The students should realize that a linguist is a person with exceptional logical skills and Intelligent quotient. The greater number of languages you learn the better will be your logical thinking.

The teachers have to take efforts with little more patience when dealing with multilingual surroundings. They have to play the roles of guides, counsellors and facilitators to the students making them continuously realize the importance of English communication skills in their academic, professional and social life.

IV. CONCLUSION

Nowadays, competency in English language is the need of the hour due to globalization. Therefore, it is an important tool to deliver technical education effectively. The stigma attached to English is a deterrent to the students in owning the language. The students should Endeavor to acquire language skills effectively and efficiently. Both aspects can make students proficient in personal life and professional life. The language teachers should choose a practical approach of teaching English with pre-designed ways.

To conclude, it becomes essential for all the students, teachers, higher education institutes and to come together and take responsibilities of developing interest for learning English. They should put all efforts together to enrich English language skills.

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