

ENGLISH AS A WORLD LANGUAGE AND ITS IMPORTANCE

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Abstract:

This paper aims to present the importance and requirement of the use of English in fostering and catering to the development of the technical competency and communicative skills of the students of engineering. It also draws a survey of the different methodologies adopted to meet the growing requirement of soft skills not only in academic institutions but also beyond it. This paper also throws a flood of light on the change in attitude of the students who are expected to be able technocrats in mere future. It also objectifies the importance of (LSRW), which is the Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing skills. The extent and importance of the English language today are such as to make it reasonable to ask whether we cannot attempt an intelligent speculation as to the probable position which it will occupy in the future. From a language spoken only by a million and half of people towards the close of the eleventh century it rose to be the language of five and a half millions by 1700. From Eighteenth century onward, English began to spread outside England and now it is spoken by men and women in the different parts of the world. English is the second language in Europe, Russia being the first from the point of view of numerical strength. This paper throws a flood of light on the importance of English language in developing literature and various other literary forms that we use in today's world. The soft skill, which is the need of the hour has gained widespread currency and momentum in the 21st century life of the people. The role of Group Discussion, Debate, interviews, the different corporate etiquettes have become popular owing to the gradual development of English language. English language has achieved importance for the students to meet with multifarious challenges and goals in their professional as well as personal fields. It also focuses on the fact that emotional intelligence as an effective soft skill is the growing demand of the people in today's professional world.

Key Words: Technical competency, communicative skills, technocrats, leadership qualities,, emotional intelligence, multifarious challenges ,professional world.

English As A World Language And Its Importance

Introduction:

Potter rightly observes: -English is likely to remain the most widespread language of the world, but its future depends on the energy and enterprise of the people who speak it -ssss

In a country like India , where there is a *multilingual* set-up and practice of different languages, we require a language that can serve the purpose of communicating ideas , emotions and feelings to one another ,in that respect English has unanimous acceptability The need to communicate in English became very necessary .*Listening* involves much more than hearing. It involves the art of receiving the sound, decoding the signals, comprehending the meaning. It is popularly believed that listening is a passive skill while speaking is an active one .speaking is an interactive process. Communication is the ability to convey or exchange information .The different ways to

communicate in writing may include letter writing, essays ,e-mails, articles, project reports, notices and speaking includes group discussions , lectures, reading papers in seminars, making power point presentations .For effective implementation of all these forms of communication, honing and mastering the four basic skills discussed above which is reading , writing listening , speaking is significant to develop potentiality of the technocrats .Besides the four skills there is *soft skills* which are *personality enhancing and developing skills* that determine your strengths as a professional while interacting with various kinds of people or negotiating deals with your clients .A combination of both language skills and effective soft skills are a necessary tool for a successful professional especially to make an able technocrat in the society.

Today's professional world demands effective transfer of technical information in the form of talks, discussions, or documents more than ever before. Such forms of communication not only reflect the true knowledge and achievements of the technocrats, scientists, researchers and other professionals but also act as a public face of the organization, reflecting their policies and achievements. Hence we have seen that the employers are not merely looking towards a formal college degree but something beyond their fixed curriculum to enhance the knowledge of the would be technocrats in today's world of employment. As we have seen that a vast part of the global community communicates in English, so it has become an essential need for both the students and the professionals involved in the technological development process to enhance their English language skills mostly listening, speaking , reading , writing(LSRW). In fact we can infer the fact that students and professionals who possess both the good subject knowledge and communication skills are considered as a valuable and most treasured assets to the organization.

Early English language

The present system of English Education in India, as we look today was introduced by the Britishers with a purely political purpose. They have introduced for their commercial needs to meet the business requirements .The colonizers did not want the English language to be used for any educational purposes for they were afraid, would lead to mass awakening that would stand in revolt against their foreign domination .yet they wanted a number of English

Knowing people, clerks, officers etc to run the administration of the country. For This English education was imparted in schools, colleges and universities and English became the medium of instruction in all stages. Education was thus limited to a small circle of upper and middle class people who rose to power and position by reaping the benefits of the English education. This promoted the growth of an alien culture which is distinct from the indigenous traditional culture of the country .The anglicised Indian was a hybrid product of this new system .In his outlook, moral, intellectual and spiritual and even in the common matters of life like eating, clothing etc .he aped European customs and manners and everything indigenous national, native became an object of scorn to him .Knowledge of English was thus regarded as a badge of superiority .It was a sure passport to power affluence and prestige .Thus the whole country was swamped in the tide of the new alien culture and education. The old traditional values which were cherished by the forefathers of the people naturally suffered from a neglect and opposition at the hands of these new people. Fortunately for us this new education did not and was not destined to reach the masses, who still clung to the indigenous system of education that still survived in many vernacular institutions in the primitive parts of the country. Thus the education system in India under the British rule was English oriented and not national .In course of time ,English education struck roots in the indigenous soil and penetrated everywhere , bringing the whole country within its sphere .Yet it was a curious irony of history that this new culture brought the country in contact with the civilizations of the west and acted as a powerful leaven towards the liberation of the intellect of the people ,who had been drudged and doped as it were ,by the pomp

and glitter of the new civilization that has thrown open to them. There is a soul of goodness in things evil, says the proverb. English education proved a blessing in disguise and ultimately led to the stirring of national spirit in the educated people, who received the light of the new culture. Thus new movements arose in the various spheres of national life – political, religious, and social and the country made a good progress in keeping pace with things going on in the outside world. Thus we can rightly say that India achieved Globalization. Today in the context of independence, the validity of English education in India has been subjected to a good deal of rethinking. A popular sentiment against English has gained a great deal of strength. Gandhiji's views on the place of English in our system of education were clear and emphatic and worth quoting – — Among many evils of foreign rule this blighting imposition of a foreign language upon the youth of the country will be counted in history as one of the greatest. It has sapped the energy of the nation. It has estranged them from the masses. These were his more serious charges against English. But at the same time he was too clear sighted to ignore the other side of the picture Gandhiji has rightly said that — - I do not want my house to be walled in all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all the lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible.

English Today

English today is an international language and not just the language of the people who just stays in the small isles of England. It has been observed that more people outside the isle speaks English than within it. Thus English has been the gateway to the knowledge in all spheres of thought, ideas, and material things of life.

English Language And Employability

The concept of 'employability' has recently gained wide momentum in the corporate world. 'Employability' refers to a person's ability to gain initial employment, maintain the employment, and the ability or the potentiality to obtain new employment in times of requirement. In compare to the normal technical skills which are job oriented and job centric as we say, the employability skills are generic in nature. Employers value these skills over and above job – specific skills. While communication skills ranks the highest in the list of employability skills, other skills such as team playing, problem solving, decision making, planning, organizing, self learning, and self management have become increasingly important. However we have seen that out of large number of engineering and other graduates being produced every year, only 10% of the total number are employed and rest are not placed in industries and other professional organizations because of lack of soft skills, particularly communication skills. We cannot afford to stand in isolation from the outside world if we are to exist at all as a strong independent nation. English is the medium of this international communication. It has entered too deep into our national life to be dispatched from it all at once. It is only a misguided patriotism that leads the crusade against English saying that love of English is assign of slave mentality and that it should be hurled from its present pride of place and thrown on the ground. Our National languages are not so much developed as to be a suitable substitute for English in our higher education, especially in science genre. Standard books on various branches of knowledge are mostly written in English. Even all the works of the great non English writers of the world are available through translations into English. Thus we can say that for retaining English as a subject for study in all spheres is as strong today as it was in the glorious past.

Tools of English Language

There are various effective tools to develop and enhance communication. Firstly we should

categorise communication into various parts, Verbal and Nonverbal, Formal and Informal, Oral and Written, Internal and External. In this respect there are various methodologies involved in imparting soft skill training to the students of engineering.

Students are enhanced in this field through group discussions, personal mock interviews, public speaking, role plays, extempore, just a minute sessions. Debates are held from time to time to make the students develop their team spirit and leadership qualities in them. This helps them to interact with each other and get rid of their inhibitions. These are the essential strategies adopted by the organizations to nurture the minds of the students and make them market ready to face the outside world. The group discussion which is actually taught to the students of engineering is actually follows the corporate technique, which is different from the strategies involved earlier in their school life. Thus we can come to an inference that Group discussion is an effective strategy to improve communication skills of the students.

Soft Skill an essential component of English Language

Effective communication and interpersonal skills are crucial to increase employment opportunities and to compete successfully in the business environment. The real key to the effectiveness of professionals is their ability to put their domain knowledge into effective practice. In this context, soft skills have a crucial role to play. If future managers know how to deal with people at the emotional level (peers, subordinates, superiors, clients, suppliers, etc.) through Emotional Intelligence (EI), they can build and sustain effective relationships that will result in mutual gain. IMPACT Compliments the PG Program curriculum with soft skills training, providing a unique opportunity for all students to develop their personality and upgrade their communication and presentation skills. The training benefits the students, both in their early professional careers and in their social interactions in the business environment.

Soft skills provide students with a strong conceptual and practical framework to build develop and manage teams. They play an important role in the development of the students' overall personality, thereby enhancing their career prospects. The soft skills training provides strong practical orientation to the students and helps them in building and improving their skills in communication, the effective use of English, business correspondence, presentations, team building, leadership, time management, group discussions, interviews, and inter-personal skills. This training also helps students in career visioning and planning effective resume writing and dealing with placement consultants and head hunters.

The training is conducted in a very informal, interesting, and interactive manner, which gives ample scope for the students to interact with each other and face a wide variety of issues, topics, and situations that they are likely to come across as entry-level managers.

Conclusion

Our National Languages are not so much developed as to be a suitable substitute for English in our higher education, especially science education. Standard books on various branches of knowledge are mostly written in English. Even all works of the great non-English writers of the world are available through translations into English. Hence in order to retain English as a subject for study in all schemes and spheres of higher education is as strong today as it was in the past. A cautious attitude in this matter has fortunately been adopted by the Central Government. It was originally a part of the national objectives set forth in the preamble to the constitution that English should be replaced by an indigenous vernacular namely Hindi, both as an official language and a medium of instruction within a period of fifteen years after the

adoption of the constitution .It has now been found from practical experience that English cannot be banished and that any hasty decision in this matter will lead to complete chaotic situation .Our administrators , educationists , scientists , lawyers , doctors and engineers cannot switch off to vernacular overnight. Thus English has to come to stay at least for more years in the country. A common language and educational facilities through the common language can mitigate this sense of plurality and generate the feeling of unity among us .Hindi cannot serve this purpose, because Hindi is not much developed as a language, and it has no international status.

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