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ASPECT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

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ABSTRACT

Proficiency and fluency in English language is professional success in global job market, while Indians are far away from learning to speak and listen



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effective English language. The persisting weaknesses need a thorough review and a paradigm shift in its philosophy and content of teaching and learning. What we need for the benefit of English language, are well trained teachers, need based syllabi and creation of infrastructure viz. tradition to modernity. In process of teaching and learning English, equal weightage should be given to reading, writing speaking and listening which make us able to comprehend the subject and groom our personality.

INTRODUCTION :21ST CENTURY NEED

What we have been some hundred years since and what we are now are all due to the very fact that nature has bestowed upon the mankind the strange faculty of language to command operation and coordination of his fellow-being which are jointly conditioning factors for modern advance in professional development and career profiles. In the 21st century to be professional icons, the students feel the need for communicating successfully through oral and written media in their academic tasks everyday and professionals face the challenges of communicating effectively and efficiently in their workplace. It is needless to mention here that one of the major personality traits in great demand is effective and excellent communication and listening skills. Any particular language may be a medium of expression or communication, but those who aspires to survive and succeed in job-



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market, must possess a reasonably good command over English language. It is the key to success; it is the 'bridge' which has to be crossed to reach greener professional pastures. Furthermore, 'globalization and expansion of the sphere of professional career profiles and activities in education and administration, management, science and technology, commerce and industry, environment and medicine, computing and internet, international affairs and international cooperation etc. hence opened the flood-gates of new vistas to potential professional'. All these have placed over increasing demands on the learning of English language. In real life scenarios, teaching and learning of English language is to empower the students with language and life skills they need to carry out their career goals and develop their self-confidence to excel today in professional and social encounters with an English-speaking global community.

LACK OF PROFICIENCY AND FLUENCY

In India English language has been teaching and studying for over two centuries. In this regard Nissim Ezekiel said that the language which had existed for two hundred years must be our culture. Unfortunately we are still far away from learning to speak and listen effective English language. English is one of our official languages; it is the link language. It is the medium of teaching in higher education. Almost all competitive examinations are conducted in this language. Even then the average Indian student is not able to either learn English or communicate in English



to a reasonable level of proficiency and fluency. This is so because the teaching methodology is inadequate in its present forms. The proficient teachers of English language today are not competent to teach all the four components – reading, writing, speaking and listening. There is no ideal syllabus. There are no workshops and laboratories in schools, colleges and universities to teach reading, speaking and listening. There is no uniform methodology to train our English teachers. Last but not least, there is no strong will of regulatory bodies and policy makers to create a huge modern infra-structure to face the challenges of globalization of higher education.

FROM TRADITION TO MODERNITY

In the context of the overall development of human resources in our country, the very critical component of teaching and learning English language needs a thorough review and if necessary a paradigm shift in its philosophy and content. In the process of reforming, even revolutionizing the traditional means what we need for the benefit of English language, are experiential leaning and concept based knowledge – from books and rigor to mind and muscle, from bricks, machinery and mortals to ethics, aptitudes and morals, from clocks, examinations and luck to knowledge, competence and interactive exposure and from 'Gurukul' – concepts of teachers – students to 'Sishyakul', where experience of many a teacher is at the disposal of each student through web-based and computer aided technologies.



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LEARNING WITH TECHNOLOGY: START BY EDUCATING TEACHES

Teachers are the backbone for any educational institution. The need of the time is to train an excellent crop of teachers, proficient in all the components of English language. Perfectly, this should be done at a few regional centre under the strict and watchful eye and control of the UGC and AICTE. Teachers can be facilitators and check the downward slide of English language if curricula will be made more rapidly responsive to students' needs, syllabus will be framed as national pattern and infrastructure will be created for laboratories and workshop of English language.

ACQUISITION OF KNOWLEDGE AND SIKLLS

In the wake of a quantum jump in technologies with global connectivity we expect like instant food, instant knowledge, instant skills and instant experience because we think that learning is easy and requires no effort and prosperity requires no hard work, sacrifice. Though these are unreasonable expectations, yet I would like to point out some passwords to get access to spoken English.

- For the complete transformation of teachers to exploit modern communication technologies such as distance learning, web



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based learning, virtual training, satellite based training etc. and to provide facilities such as internet and chat rooms.

- For oral tests in reading, speaking and listening to organize seminars, workshops, debates, group discussions and laboratory based test.
- To guide, encourage and motivate the students to learn quality English speaking and learning.
- To read loudly a good English newspaper and watch and listen to a good English news TV channel at least fifteen minutes daily.
- To converse in English in the campus of colleges and universities.
- For build up self-confidence to make speeches in front of a mirror, record the same and play it for correction.
- To take up a spoken and listening English course in a commercial language centre for about three months.

CONCLUSION: SUSTAINABLE EFFORTS

It goes without saying that the best academic skills will do no good if we cannot write or verbally present idea in a coherent and persuasive manner. Such skills need to be developed at every opportunity while in college, in higher study.

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