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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTIVE ENGLISH COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR ITI STUDENTS



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ABSTRACT

This paper focused on the importance of effective English communication skills for ITI students. ITI students who are from poor economical family backgrounds and they want immediate employment to support their families from their suffering but this group

is in great trouble as industries are hiring students who are technically sound and have minimum knowledge of English to operate modern machines and follow instructions.

KEYWORDS

ITI, skills, effective, problems, communication, students, diploma

RESEARCH PAPER

Thoughts about “the quality of life for other,” started very early among human beings. So they formed the principles and moral practices of concern for happiness of others, resulting in a quality of life for everyone. It also symbolizes human love and compassion towards each other. Can we call this ‘thought for others’ as humanity? Which is an act of love, altruism and social intelligence. A famous philosopher Confucius said that, “Humanity is a ‘love of people’ stating “If you want to make a stand help others make a stand”.

At present, in the modern terms, it is the Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity among everyone in the society, uphold the humanity by Law. Hence each one has the right to lead a dignified life enjoying the wealth of the planet on the Earth equally. But, every now and then, we find inequality, injustice, inhuman and unfortunate things happening around the world. Every day one or the other fights for his/her rights, may be in getting basic necessities like food, shelter, health or education. Apart from these basic necessities, such as education, which is the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, morals, beliefs, and habits. Educational methods include teaching, training, discussion and directed research, play an important role in mending the brain of the human being so that he/she can lead a beautiful life, other than an animal.

In that direction, man has discovered agriculture, cooking, cleaning, building habitats, establishing several institutions, organizations and co-working environments. In his successive stages, he thought of developing cottage industries and merchandise activities for his better living. In connection with this, he started visiting different places and discussed with likeminded people and established large industries by paying wages for laborers, to face their hardships and lead a better life. But, at present because of various invasions, discoveries and new international policies in the field of science and technology and international relations, human beings do not have any barriers to learn anything new, to go anywhere they like, or to wish to invest anywhere in the world. Undoubtedly, the world has become very small. It’s just a ‘global village’ today. Anything can be done with a click of a button.

Then there was the problem of common language to connect the world, so, to make all his activities smoother and smarter, man thought of using a common language for communication. So, certainly, he selected ‘English’ as the most part of the world was ruled by Europeans and had spread their language, ‘English’ everywhere. And in addition to this, in the modern world, most of the computer programs are in English and user friendly. On account of this, English has become the university library language and means to get highly paid jobs in the job market and to establish an international relationship.

Subsequently, within no time, English has reached every nook and corner and has been creating its demand everywhere. The successful communication has become the main skill to increased growth and career progression in the workplace. Without the proper knowledge of the English language, it might be difficult for anyone to maintain business relationships and finally climb the corporate heights in the modern world. As a result of this, English language and computer skills have polarized the society. People, who master these are getting good jobs and recognition compared to others.

As a result of this, unemployment is increasing in the country leading to an unsounding painful poverty. Degree holders are driving autos and cabs, many are going to garment factories and for domestic help in urban areas. The same picture is continued even in rural areas with little change with an agrarian setup. Along with this, country is also facing the problem of dropouts, employment for vocationally trained classes like ITI, Polytechnic, diploma, nursing, and teacher's training due to unequal education system to name a few. Particularly ITI students who are from poor economical family backgrounds and want immediate employment to support their families from their suffering. But this group is in great trouble as industries are hiring students who are technically sound and have minimum knowledge of English to operate modern machines and follow instructions. Although these students have course certificates, they suffer from communication constrain and they work mechanically as they don't have English teachers to teach in ITI colleges. As a result, they stay away from better salaries and promotions. It is a known fact that, teachers are inevitable, and no technology can replace teachers.

To support this group, problems of students in learning English is being studied and some of the reasons are listed below:

- *Mainly ITI students are from rural backgrounds and are users of their mother tongue for all day-to-day activities. Most of them are from poor family backgrounds and they need jobs immediately after their course due to financial problems of the family.*
- *Most of the students' parents aren't well educated, they never support education of their children as they are not aware of the value of education.*
- *Although the country has a high number of primary schools, they lack resources like infrastructure and teachers.*
- *Most of the time, a teacher who teaches other languages, also teaches English from 5th grade.*
- *The main reason behind this problem is, students speak and learn in their language(L1) of the state and neglect English during primary stages.*
- *Students translate their vernacular language to English and the other way around for a better understanding of the material which reduces productivity and hence, losing interest and are facing problems while learning English, as the grammar of English is different from that of the vernacular.*
- *Many times Government decisions like 3 Language formula, compulsory learning in vernacular language up to 10th grade, and jobs via quota are making the students neglect English in the primary stages but when they come to dream of getting good jobs, they require English, and then they start learning on the day before an interview.*
- *Most of the teachers in their primary schools teach English in vernacular or regional languages to help students understand faster and clear their examinations.*
- *ITI colleges have no English teachers, which makes students face problems during an interview.*
- *In majority of the schools, they start teaching with reading and writing which is against the pattern of language learning, that is LSRW (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). Even though they teach English, it is restricted to academics of that year but not for regular communication. Students face lots of problems in learning technical and scientific words along with proper grammar.*

With all these observations, according to the 2011 census report, 40% of the population is below the age of 18 and by 2020, the average Indian population will be only 29 years old,

compared with the average age of 37 years in China and the US, 45 in Western Europe and 48 in Japan. This study gives the picture of a large and growing labor force, which is measured to be the most productive class of human resources. Hence, sustainability of economic development of the country will depend on how this group of people are utilized for the growth of the nation.

Hence, to concentrate on this group, certain measures should be taken by the governments, as they are the voiceless children and rarely speak out about their problems. Some adjust with the ongoing pattern and some can't analyse what's happening. Most of the ITI students are from this group. But a few ITI colleges are doing well by using Government plans and by self-motivation. They are working under PPP mode (Public Private Partnership) and are using modern CNC machines and are also making Memorandum of Agreement with Local Industries.

In the age of LPG the technology and English are entering into almost all walks of progressive life through different electronic gadgets like mobiles, tablets, laptop, smart TVs and many others. Internet and social media hasn't left any part of the human life unexplored. Now it is the responsibility of the government to prepare ITI professional in par with Industrial needs as they are the ground level staff who execute the work. Noticing the technological development in the field of information, one can easily assume that Students can learn through internet. But it is an impractical assumption, because education and infrastructure are not uniformly given throughout the country to follow on their own. So, it is the responsibility of the particular government to take the initiative to make them employable and self-employed. Hence, some of the important suggestions to take action and to help this section of the society are:

- English teachers should be appointed to ITI colleges as Technology can't replace teachers. Teachers are inevitable today and even tomorrow.
- Usually, in schools, English teaching starts with teaching of grammar which is not the proper way of learning any language. Instead, a teacher has to follow the LSRW technique (listening, speaking, reading and writing). i.e. the way a child learns his mother tongue at home.
- Each student is different in a class. To teach them effectively, their learning style and their strengths should be learnt properly in the first place.
- Integrated method of teaching is very effective in the class compared to adopting a single teaching method like Grammar Translation Method, The Direct Method, Bilingual Method, Audio-Lingual Method or the structural Situational approach.
- Centralised Online Classes could be started, but the result will be less due to infrastructural problems.
- Many Audio-Visual classes could be conducted by using illustrated recorded lessons.
- Many practical tasks in the class will fetch better results. A teacher should create different varieties of task to teach.
- Special attention should be given to train the trainers as they are the link between students and industries.
- Particularly, the students should not be corrected often as it demotivates and discourages the usage.
- A particular text book, "English for special purpose with CD for ITI students" should be formed by an expert's committee, by studying the requirements of the students and teachers of ITI colleges and the industries.

So, it is our ardent duty to work towards the weaker section of the society to eradicate the unemployment and poverty. Every year, every country will have poverty estimates which are helpful to track the impact and success of different government policies, especially social welfare schemes that are intended to eliminate poverty other than mere academic purpose. As stated by World Bank, poverty is pronounced deprivation in the well-being and comprises of many dimensions. It includes low incomes and the inability to acquire basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity.

According to reports of NSSO, more than a quarter of the population living in rural areas of India are below the poverty line. Out of the total population living in the rural parts of India, 25.7% are living below the poverty line whereas in the urban areas, the situation is a bit better with just 13.7% of the population. So, the only way to eradicate this poverty is by educating the masses and by making them independent. In this direction, ITI colleges should be given higher priority as the children who come to these institutions are from the economically weaker sections and who can't afford to take good training. Once they get NCVT certificate (The National Council for Vocational Training), which is valid throughout the country and also valid in abroad will help them build their life in a dignified way.

All the Bills, Policies, Schemes and programs are for the wellbeing of the society. So, by addressing the problems of the voice less who really can't understand their position, are adjusting with the present conditions and rarely think about their elevation. Any nation can grow at a higher speed by using its actual resources.

Now, India is rich in human resource. Nearly 65% of the nation's population is below 35 years compared to all the other developing countries of the world. Hence it is a boon as we have strong working manpower to build the nation strongly with humanity.

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