



ELT IN TECHNICAL COLLEGE: AN OVERVIEW



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ABSTRACT

India is a multilingual country. According to the 1961 Census of India the total number languages spoken in India was 1652. The importance of English language is undeniable at any level of education field. In India from primary level to university level English language is gaining the major place day by day and English is enjoying status as a global language. It is an international link language. English language is trying to form the whole world into global village. Schools and colleges have adopted the new and high technology to teach in a better way with the help of English. Rapid expansion and changes in Education sector in India is the

prominent feature of spread of English language in India. In India all colleges and universities apply English language teaching effectively. In Technical Colleges, English is taught as compulsory subject at Diploma and Degree colleges. In Technical colleges English is prominently taught for communicative skill. English is used as medium of instruction in not only technical education but also in secondary and University education, and research in areas. Keywords: multilingual country, English language, Diploma and Degree College, Technical College.

RESEARCH PAPER

Introduction:

English language is the window to the globe. Through this window person will perceive the real picture of the globe simply.

“English is truly the world language.” (*Stevenson, 1994*)

British, who introduced English language in India, gave the proper shape to education and considered it a state responsibility. Today, in India English plays the major role in every field especially in Education sector. Central and State government giving the high priority to the English language. English is used for specific purposes at various fields such as Medical, Technology, Administration, Law, and Business etc. After independence English is so much important subject in higher studies. English language is based on the four fold fundamental skills; Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. These four skills should be developed among pupils. Different institutions in India are trying to reflect these four skills in syllabus properly. Some major institutes in India which are helping to strengthen the National System of Education are University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Medical Council of India(MCI) and Dental Council of India (DCI).

Perhaps, English language plays a major and important role in shaping of students career. AICTE is more focused on technical subject and gives less importance to English language. As comparing with other subjects in technical Education, English has been less focused and generally taught in only first year of degree. English language plays the major role in transmitting the knowledge among the pupils.

According to the need of learner, the teaching of English comes under the specific purposes where the language content is tailored. Here learners are able to pick the ability of communication for required area, with this ability the result will be very impressive where such a requirement for communication ability is matched with specially designed materials relevant to the needs of particular students. According to Mackay (1978), a difference in approach from the current ‘Start at the beginning again’ or ‘remedial solutions’ is needed, when English ceases to be an examination subject and assumes the role of instrument of communication.

To meet the rising needs the version of general English Language Teaching(ELT) have put forward to English for Specific Purposes(ESP), English for Academic Purposes(EAP) and English for Occupational Purposes(EOP). The concept of English for Specific Purposes (ESP) is to be particularly attributed for teaching English to students of Science and Technology(EST).

Larsen Freeman (1991) writes,

“English, a second language for most of the people of the world, has increasingly become the international language for business and commerce, science and Technology, and international relation and diplomacy. Other professional intercourse, such as the proceeding of meetings of health practitioners or educators from different parts of the world is often conducted in English, a second language for many of the participants.”

English language is only a language like other languages but its importance is now globally accepted. In this age of globalization, international projects increasing and cross-cultural communication and collaboration rising, especially in the international practice of engineering, English is accepted as the most wide spoken and widespread language in the world. (Kitao, 1996)

The knowledge of English language is one of the basic parameters in the recruitment criteria as for the technical and management course students.

In the Indian context, an engineering student’s success in the on campus recruitment is mainly based on their demonstration of communication skills. According to the National Association of Software and Services Company (NASSCOM), only 25 percent of technical graduates are suitable for employment in the out-sourcing industry because of their lack of abilities to speak or write well in English.(Karnik,2007 as cited in P’Rayan 2008:1)

The young engineers are usually lack proficiency in English despite their expertise and competence in the subject area. So they fail to be effective communicators. At a gathering of vice-chancellors during the 82nd annual meeting of the Association of Indian Universities, former President of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, asserted that only 25 percent of graduating students were employable and that students were lacking in areas such as technical knowledge English proficiency and critical thinking.

ELT- A Brief Scenario:

Most of the students in technical colleges come from regional language background. They are lacking in communication proficiency in English language. In spite of good knowledge of other technical subject they are sometimes poor in English proficiency. There are some reasons for the poor proficiency in English such as their school education is in regional medium, teachers do not properly communicate in English language in classroom, less important and emphasis on English language as comparing to other technical subjects, students casual approach towards English subject for only passing criteria, etc.

In technical education, English language teachers face some problems such as

1. Over strength of classroom.
2. Unavailability of language laboratory.
3. Lack of good teaching material.

4. Secondary importance to English as non-technical subject.
5. Students are less interested to attend English subject lectures, etc.

Measurements to Improve ELT in Technical Colleges:

English is the dominant medium of communication around the world. (Nunan, 2003). To develop the communication talent among the technical students vital to enhance the ELT in technical faculties. English is the window to the world and this window will never shut down by technical students solely owing to lack of proficiency in English even though they have good knowledge of technical subjects. Following measurements are important to improve ELT in Technical colleges-

- *Time to time proper training or refresher courses should be organized to English teacher in technical institutes.*
- *Accessibility of platform for technical students to represent themselves additional with confidence in English communication.*
- *Proper English communication learning environment ought to be provided in daily classroom.*
- *Proper language laboratory facility ought to be available at institute and also encourage to technical students to use language laboratory time to time.*
- *English teacher should think out of box that give the live experience for English communication like different sessions for dialogue practice, reading comprehension, writing practice on various topics, enthusiastically participated in group discussion, write and present of report writing, student should participate in role plays, write different essays on various topics, to write various types of Letters, etc.*
- *Increase the internet about literary pieces like novels, drama, poetry, short stories, etc.*
- *As the rapid development technology ELT should be involve multimedia technology like audio-visual aids, animation effects, can come in English class. Now days these multimedia technology is very familiar to technical students and they can use it very effectively.*

Conclusion:

Importance of the communication skill is inevitable in technical education and the market economy demands this skill in fresh recruits. So the technical qualified youngsters should be more focused on English communication skill. The good command over English language for technical students is now need of hour. It is very important that good command on English language along the technical knowledge of the respective branches. ELT in technical colleges will proved to be milestone to create a future competent based technical student who will qualify for employability in the recruitment process. More weightage should be given to English subject in technical colleges.

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