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THE VALUE OF ENGLISH COMMUNICATION AND ITS SOLUTIONS FOR RURAL ENGINEERING STUDENTS

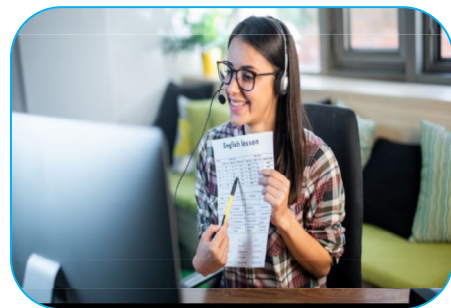
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ABSTRACT:

This study emphasizes the value of English communication skills for rural engineering students, as well as the challenges they encounter in their academic and professional lives and potential solutions. The majority of engineering college students comes from rural areas. They do have the IQ required to be admitted to a university, but their communication skills in English are lacking. Thus, they deal with a lot of challenges in their education and careers. It's crucial to become proficient in English communication if you want to succeed in your coursework and in campus interviews. Teachers and students must work together to create integrated efforts. This includes taking the initiative and actively participating in the teaching-learning process, which includes language lab sessions, role plays, GDs, and question-answer sessions.



KEYWORDS: *Value of English, Communication, Proficiency.*

I. INTRODUCTION

English as a critical language for global commerce explains that by combining several language acquisition techniques, students from remote locations can acquire English. It emphasizes how crucial it is to learn. English as a critical language for global commerce.

It explains that by combining several language acquisition techniques, students from remote locations can acquire English. The present universal language of worldwide commerce, technology, aviation, banking, medical, engineering, and tourism is English. Worldwide, over 25% of people are somewhat literate in English. There are about 1.8 billion speakers of it worldwide, and that number is rising.

Science is conducted in English in almost every university in the world. More than 70% of mailing letters' addresses or content are written in English, and 60% of radio shows are transmitted in that language overall. English is widely used around the world. The majority of people on the planet concur with Alexander V. Sandoval's assertion that English is rapidly taking over as the primary language of the twenty-first century in his essay "The Importance of English" on www.eagleforum.com. About 70% of people on the planet can speak or understand English. Furthermore, almost 80% of all information that is kept on file worldwide is either written in or translated into English. Skills in foreign languages, especially English, are useful at work, in the classroom, on vacation, in advancing your career, and in promoting your own business. The dude with

perfect English language skill will not become lost in a world populated by humans. Many issues facing engineering students in rural areas have been noted by those with expertise teaching English to young people in various colleges.

II. IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH COMMUNICATION FOR ENGINEERING STUDENTS

The largest field of study worldwide is engineering. First and foremost, English is a tool that has a big impact on engineering students' academic lives. Even though the majority of engineering theories are taught in English as proficiency in the language is still required. Engineering students must cope with an endless amount of English-language lectures, tutorials, labs, project reports, and papers in their academic careers. The majority of engineering professors at different universities deliver their lectures in English. The majority of information is available in English on the Internet, which is the most practical information source. It is vital to become proficient in English throughout the job interview process, especially for general managers. Once employed, individuals must collaborate with others in groups to complete tasks that are rarely completed by a single person. Thus, to become an engineer, one must be proficient in English.

III Challenges Surmounted by Rural Engineering Students

Approximately 75 percentages of engineering students in our nation come from rural areas and the majority attends regional language-medium schools. They undoubtedly possess the intelligence required for a bright career and further education given their admission to engineering colleges. However, English becomes a barrier to success in every field of endeavor. Now, let's look at the factors that continue to make English a bad choice for pupils in remote areas in this day and age.

3.1 FAMILY'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC HORIZON

Students in the classroom come from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds and have varying levels of knowledge and proficiency in English communication. It has been discovered that children from higher middle class backgrounds, whose parents read and write, have higher English communication competency than students from lower middle class backgrounds, whose parents do not read or write. Given that they understand the value of English proficiency, literate parents in this situation can expose their child to more English. They talk to the teacher about the child's development and give him or her at home entrance coaching. Since the second group lacks parental oversight and assistance from higher education, it never occurs with them.

3.2 DEFICIENCY OF PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS

The educational system and the scarcity of qualified teachers are the other significant factors. The majority of educators across all grade levels lack training; they are not aware of the most recent developments in the field of English language teaching (ELT). In rural or semi urban areas, the situation is the same for elementary, intermediate, and upper secondary English-regional medium institutions. Once more, the teaching-learning process is heavily focused on exam results. Further more, the exams do not only assess memory. More than abilities or information, even parents are hankering after grades. Because professors force their kids to learn material by heart, English appears to be a terrifying monster to them. This fear endures until further schooling.

3.3 EDUCATION SYSTEM

The other important factor is the traditional education system which affects English language learning and acquisition. Basically it requires four skills i.e. Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. (LSRW). Our students are being trained in reading and writing for long ages and listening and speaking skills are neglected and ignored which are very important. Learning is the one basic skill which makes speaking possible. Learning language is possible only through active listening. As an illustration we can take an example of language acquisition by a baby. It starts speaking the words which it listens frequently. Our education neglects the importance of listening which results in lack of skill of speaking.

Lack of modern and advanced technology in the process of language learning also affects the language acquisition. E.g. use of computers and internet, power point presentation, OHP etc.

3.4 CONTROVERSY UPON LEARNING GRAMMAR OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

There is a much controversy upon learning English as a second language. Researchers ask a question that had we learnt grammar of our mother tongue when we learnt it. So, grammar is learnt only for the sake of getting marks and not as a tool for learning a language. Again the application of grammar in day to day life is being neglected. Importance Of English Communication For Engineering Students From Rural Areas And Its Remedies Second International Conference on Emerging Trends in Engineering (SICETE) 41 | Page Dr.J.J.Magdum College of Engineering, Jaysingpur .

3.5 LACK OF EXPOSURE TO THE ENGLISH COMMUNICATION

The rural area students lacks the exposure to the English communication in the family, society as well as in the colleges. As a result of this even the meritorious gold medalist fail to achieve success during personal interviews due to lack of communication skills, soft skills, interpersonal skills and personality development. During academics also lack of confidence of being unable to communicate in English leads to feeling of inferiority complex, as a result students keep themselves lonely and isolated. IV. REMEDIES Knowing the importance and growing demand of English communication competence for engineering students from rural areas, there a need for the teachers as well the students to make integrated efforts.

1. Faculty is expected to fulfill their assigned responsibilities. But apart from that they should think it as their moral responsibility to take more efforts to provide more exposure to English language for students as to achieve communication competence. The students when forced to learn communication on their own, they find it as a herculean task. So, they expect assistance and warmth understanding from teachers. Now days a comprehensive course which focus on both writing and speaking skills is introduced in most of the universities in Maharashtra. So, during the interactive sessions the students should be encouraged and helped to talk .So, that the students can built an ability to participate in various activities such as paper presentations, GD's, mock interviews, role plays etc. to develop English communication competence. It is necessary that Students Talk Time (STT) should be higher than Teacher Talk Time (TTT).

2. Students from the secondary and higher secondary level should be given dictionary of technical words with their meanings in regional language for use. The technical teachers should help students in understanding the technical words in English and their equivalents in regional languages. Again they should help the students to understand the meanings of long and complicated sentences in technical subjects.

3. Grammar should be taught in the form of application of it in day to day life. When we learnt first language, it requires a lot of time. We get a lot of exposure to it as our entire communication deals takes place in the regional language. So, it is but natural that it does not require learning the grammar of regional language.Unfortunatly it does not happen with English which is a second language. From the experience, it is essential to learn grammar of English as second language for getting confidence of speaking and performing the best in all walks of life.

4. In this modern era, new trends and methods of teaching are emerging in the learning of the English language competence which involves the use of Computer assisted language learning (CALL) in the Language Labs. Most of the students are tired of the traditional way of teaching and are more interested in doing exercises on a computer than by hand. This system works more effectively when the ratio of computer and student is

4:1 CALL mostly includes:

4.1 Use of Audio /video clips.

4.2 Interlingua method-Listen and see clippings in regional language and English. 4.3 Language Learning-vocabulary-synonyms and antonyms.

4.4 Etymology reading.

4.5 Grammar.

4.6 Role Plays-Speaking task.

4.7 Translation.

4.8 Fluency Task.

By this method of learning students are provided a lot of practice and exposure to the English language. This method leads to individualization of learning, where teachers act as mentor, trainer and aspirant to facilitate learning. The teachers should be aware of the latest technologies, explore new ideas and have certain amount of specialization in the subject. Refresher courses for these teachers at national level can help in achieving proficiency in use of CALL.

5. Students on their own should make use of English journals, television programs, newspapers, magazines, English language Resource centers to acquire the English communication skills.

V. CONCLUSION

English communication skills are recognised as the important element in the academic life and career of the engineering students. It requires to make use of integrated methods to facilitate advanced communication skills, which is the demand of industry as well as society. The rural area engineering students should effectively make use of the faculty, education system and the amenities provided to them in combination with the self-efforts, to emerge as a competent user of English communication to become successful in life and career.

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2 ISTE-International Society for technology in Education <http://www.iste.org>

3 computer assisted language learning