



STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE TEACHING OF ENGLISH IN HYDERABAD KARNATAKA REGION

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ABSTRACT:

Learning English language is highly needed for knowledge, employment and uplift of social status. Students in Hyderabad Karnataka region join the degree college without the basic proficiency in English and leave the college without acquiring the communication skills to use in day to day affairs. The current state of methodology followed in teaching English is to be blamed. To teach required skills of English by making the learning interesting, simple strategies are suggested which include motivating the students by the teachers by adopting motivational strategies. Reading programmes are to be conducted for enhancing the communication skills. Increased use of humour in English class enlivens the students and the group discussions are initiated for the over all improvement of student's English language skills. Education is the process of learning. It is the fourth basic need for a person after food, clothing and shelter. Education is very important because food, clothing and shelter are meaningless without education. Education is the most basic necessity in this competitive world to survive and reach heights. Literacy rate decides the power of a country. And this should start right from educating the children who build the next generations. English can play an important role in the development of rural areas.

KEYWORDS: *Rural Area, Students, Communication, English, Learning*

INTRODUCTION:

The elevated status of English in today's globalized world has made English language education getting prime importance across borders. A broad goal of English language program is that of developing community to convey and interpret the message via written or spoken modalities to another person. We must not forget that our today's students will become the responsible workforce tomorrow for our country. If we do not have good teachers, there is hardly any way to create such desired workforce of international quality. Thus, lack of sufficient good teachers in English would result an imbalance between our urban and rural areas and thus, rural areas would always be deprived of learning English properly.

The status of English in India is high among the elite. It is mostly used in formal domains such as education, government and employment. It is used as a medium for inter-state communication, press and broadcasting. The number of newspapers, journals and magazines in English is on the rise. The spread of English throughout India is encouraged, so that it will become a genuine link language of the country, not just as it is at present, the link language of the elite. Therefore the underprivileged students in rural Karnataka depend on the teachers of English at the degree colleges. The Indians who know English are viewed as providing India with a comparative advantage and a functional knowledge of

English will be important for many more Indians to meet the economic challenges of the present century. The need for English to improve one's social and economic position has had an impact on undergraduate education. In Hyderabad Karnataka as in the rest of state of India, English is taught as a second language at every stage of education. Though Kannada is spoken by 83% of people in Karnataka., more than half of personal letters are written in English and all business letters are written in English. Job interviews are carried out only in English. English has become far off from its original uses as the language of the government. In Hyderabad Karnataka as in the rest of Karnataka, English is taught as a subject and not as a language. Teaching English is more examination oriented. The rural students are intelligent but they suffer from low confidence in their use of English. The prevailing methods of teaching English are not conducive and congenial for effective learning of English. Hence, it is high time to adopt simple and well known strategies for imparting effective teaching of English. The strategies like motivating the students, conducting reading programmes, using humour in the classroom and involving students in group discussions are to be used to the optimum which result in the effective learning of English as a language and the students would obtain the basic required proficiency in English as in their mother-tongue.

The Present Scenario of Teaching English in Hyderabad Karnataka Region

Students of Hyderabad Karnataka Region joining the degree colleges come from the poor family background. Majority of them attend the classes with single notebooks which they use for all the subjects. Most of them do not buy the prescribed English text books. On the contrary, the teachers go to the classes with textbooks and teach through translation method. The use of mother tongue (Kannada) is useful as far as the better understanding of the content of the text but not in acquiring the basic skills of English as the teachers are translating and explaining everything in the text in the mother-tongue (Kannada). The use of two languages in the classroom can be done in such a way to provide comprehensible input in the target language. Hence, mother tongue should not be used extensively.

Our examination pattern is also responsible for the present condition. The students focus on passing the examination rather than learning the language. The students, who do not buy the textbooks, purchase the study guides and guess papers readily available in the market before the examination period. On the other hand teachers are interested in the completion of lessons prescribed in the text. They do not go beyond explaining the lessons in the text. The students show an indifferent attitude towards English partially owing to the approach of the teachers. Students lack motivation. Only devoted teachers can motivate the students. It is the teachers' ability to turn the intelligence of rural students towards learning English.

Pair work and group discussions are not often followed in the English class fearing that class may become noisy. Language experts say that a noisy language class is a good and effective class. Another factor is that the students are not provided with adequate reading materials. Reading instruction in English is not followed. Most of the teachers feel shy to use humour in the class. Consequently, the English language class becomes dull, boring and uninteresting. Teachers attend the classes without much preparation of the topic to be taught thinking that teaching general English class is a child's play. They don't provide or extract the background knowledge of the topic. The students' curiosity to learn the language is missing.

Effective Teaching Methods of English In learning a language concentration should be on four main skills namely

1. Listening
2. Speaking
3. Reading

4. Writing

The above order gains importance because gaining one skill leads to the next and so the order is very important.

Listening:

Listening is the one basic skill which makes speaking possible. Nobody can speak a language without listening to it. Even an infant starts speaking in a particular language after listening to it for many months. As we adopt a syllabus in which writing and reading of English is given much importance, our students are deprived of speaking abilities because they have not been properly guided in listening skills. This may be the basic reason why they have not been able to speak English in a proper manner. The syllabus should be redesigned to make the students listen a lot.

Activities for Listening:

The following activities can be implemented to improve the listening skills.

1. Listening to recorded speeches, dialogues, interviews and discussions
2. Listening to news bulletins, chat shows, commentaries, weather reports and announcements on TV
3. Watching English movies on Television
4. Watching talk shows on Television
5. Listening to speeches of great statesmen & politicians
6. Watching headlines

The above said activities help students learn pronunciation, improve vocabulary, learn jargons related to various fields, helps in better understanding and right usage of words and phrases.

Speaking:

Creating and exposing students to English speaking environments should be given foremost importance when speaking exercises are designed.

Substitution:

Substitution of a word, phrase, or sentence by another is an elementary method which helps students to produce new utterances and to develop speaking skill. A sentence frame is practiced first, then suitable slots in the frame are identified for substitution. When substitution is made, a number of new sentences are produced with ease by students.

Day- to – Day Expression:

Expressions of greeting, gratitude, small talk, introductions and making acquaintance, leave-taking, appreciation, expressions of regret and asking to be excused, taking routes, counting, terms related to money transaction etc., are very important communicative acts students need to master. Besides the above activities such as role play, mime, debate on real life situations, eliciting vocabulary from pictures provide a wider scope for the students to enhance their speaking skills.

Reading:

Reading exercises are very important since they help to widen and deepen the student's linguistic skills. Prolonged exposure to reading definitely yields good results.

1. Separate assignments for reading should be given.

2. At the initial stage students should be encouraged to read aloud so that the mistakes in pronunciation, stress and pause could be corrected.
3. Students should be encouraged to read the phrases at a single stretch, not going from word to word.

The teacher should not allow the students to refer to a dictionary for each and every unfamiliar word since it decreases speed and results in lack of interest. Allow them to guess. At the end of the session explain it with examples. This type of exercises and drill when given to students regularly makes them improve their reading skills.

Teaching Writing:

The following activities would help a lot to improve writing skills.

1. Writing diary daily
2. Listing objects in pictures
3. Writing review of the recently watched movies
4. Creating headlines from current affairs
5. Making a monthly calendar or birthday card for a classmate

From the above activities, students can improve their writing skills. Using the above steps teacher shall proceed to extend phrase writing into sentence writing, which enables the students to practice extended writing exercises. Since language learning is a slow and continuous process, errors are inevitable. Without errors no true learning can take place. Students should be told that they need not worry for making mistakes. Everybody, including native speakers makes mistakes. The teacher should not always attempt to correct every error which may upset or discourage the students. Frequent interruptions, in the name of corrections destroy self-confidence of the students. It is the role of the teacher to create a conducive climate in which the students can fearlessly exercise the language and acquire communicative competence.

CONCLUSION

English teachers, especially those who teach rural students, need to be very patient and systematic. They are expected to do a miraculous job under adverse conditions. This is a real challenge which may sound impractical, but it would be highly unjust on the part of the English teacher if he/she overlooks the seriousness behind the issue and it would deprive the students' opportunities which are mainly attained through communication skills and the specific purpose of teaching English as a communicative tool would get lost. We are clear that a lot of change has to be done in Indian rural areas regarding education of children. Many children in rural areas are not getting educated as there are no proper schools, even if there are schools there is no proper management. It is also analyzed that teaching English for children of rural areas is very necessary as it will be helpful in building one's own future. Teaching in rural areas should be done in creative way which involves less strain and educates more number of children in a short period of time. This directly reflects the increase of literacy rate of our country. For India to become a developed nation from a developing nation, the difference between the rural areas and urban areas should decrease. Learning and writing English can help in the process.

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