



## TEACHING COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN ENGLISH AS A TOOL FOR PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

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### ABSTRACT

Man is gregarious by nature and tends to live in a group. He has to be neither independent nor dependent but should be interdependent. So his existence or survival depends on fashioning his personality to fit into the environment. No longer does a man lead an insular, isolated and alienated life in the present context of emerging global scenario. Like the terse and apt remark of Socrates, one has to say "I am a citizen of the world". Indian English comprises several dialects or varieties of English spoken primarily in India, and by first generation members of the Indian Diaspora. This dialect evolved during and after British colonial rule of India. English is co-official language of India, with about 90 million speakers, but with fewer than quarter of a million calling it a first language. With the exception of some families which communication primarily in English as well as members of the relatively small Anglo-Indian community. Therefore English in India is no more a foreign language as it is considered as second language. English is taught in schools and colleges and it has become a jink language in view of several languages existing in India. Today we depend on English as our instrument of communication as a medium for sustenance from knowledge of the west and also as a medium of creative exploration.

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### INTRODUCTION

Communication means the art of the expressing one's ideas, feelings, and emotions. World population has been using English extensively. Communication is basically conversational in nature, where information is exchanged continuously between two or more person on the form of dialogue. The focus on communication skills is significant in the context of present day requirement in undergraduate courses in general English in Indian universities. It is suggested that the teachers make the classes as interactive as possible to fill gap between the students actual and the expected proficiency in English. The skills thus acquired in the class room will help the students in their higher education, careers and professions. A real teacher should promote learning and should focus on this promotion through a series of carefully designed

activities and tasks. English is used and learnt all over the world not out any imposition but through the realization that it has certain inherent advantages. English has entered the fabric of India's intellect and culture.

Thanks to science and technology the world has shrunk and distance is minimized. Like a bird of passage, modern man flits across the world. In this context of circumstance it is pertinent to study the significance and role of English in one's own development. It is not a matter of exaggeration to say that English has helped in achieving a sense of unity and harmony among us. It has become very popular as far as Indian Education concerned not only for accessing higher form of knowledge especially science and technology but also in terms of employment, economic gains and the glamour and prestige is commended in public domain. It has the image that of being a language of the elite.

Social reformers like Dr. B R Ambedkar, who is the architect of modern India and Raja Ram Mohan Roy etc. could rejuvenate and revitalize our nation from the shackles of discrimination, slavery, superstitions, through the potent instrument of English. Moreover Nehru from Kashmir to a Rajagopala chary of Madras, Gandhi from Gujarat, Nethaji from Bengal could converse and evolve strategies for emancipation from the yoke of slavery. Apart from political congregation, men of eminence in the fields of literature and science have vindicated the glory of our country. It is only thanks to English.

Tagore, Bose, Sir C V Raman etc, demonstrated their mental prowess and ability to the British. Radhakrishnan became an effective liaison officer between the East and the West and dispelled the not on of Rudyard Kipling that "East is East, West is West, and never shall the twain meet" with his dazzling eloquence he could enchant and mesmerize the intellectuals of the west. Moreover the great personality of Vedanta philosopher Swamy Vivekananda, who dispelled English language firstly, after familiarizing with English he could give an eloquent lecture in Chicago conference and he could also give valuable massages to the youth of this country. Some of the language zealots during post independence era have vociferously demanded for the removal of English and vigorously championed the use of the regional language. In our aggressive spirit of jingoism, we have ignored the relevance and utility of English.

Slowly, we are able to recognize the supreme value and role of English in the matter of career opportunities, with the advent of computers, communication skills in English have become indispensable student of science and Technology seeking jobs or pursuing higher education are compelled to get through IELTS, TOEFL and allied examinations. Western countries and gulf countries are offering lucrative pay packages and necessarily the students are obliged to learn English, the global language. Even countries like China and Japan have included English in their school curriculum.

English infuses confidence and confers status and prestige on an individual. He never suffers from a feeling of apartheid or a sense of caste or gender discrimination. It promotes a sense of oneness and togetherness. It fosters a spirit of international understanding. In the wake of knowledge explosion, he easily gets in touch with latest books and technology. He never behaves like an obscurantist or dogmatist. Knowledge of English elevates and ennobles him. He becomes Sauv , humane and urbane once he acquires proficiency in English.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The plague of parochialism can be contained through the vaccine of English. All the social and economic ill can be cured with the help of English. Long ago persons like Rajagopala Chary and M.C Chagla vigorously pleaded for the retention of English keeping in the view and the needs of our nation. The key to progress and development of personality lies in the learning and use of English alone as it is a treasure house of knowledge and a door to the growth and prosperity of an individual as well as a nation. One can overcome inhibitions and phobias by learning English. It inculcates a modern and liberal outlook. One is freed from the trammels of caste, color, creed and gender. He develops a wholesome personality to win the hearts and minds of those whom he meets and interacts. Thus English exercises a benign gracious influence on an individual and provides the key to success through his personality development.

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