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A CRITICAL REVIEW OF THE OBJECTIVE OF USING ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA

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Abstract

In India, everyone knows that during the British period almost all the subjects were taught through English language not only at school level but also at all the higher educational institutions. Actually, when the British came to India as traders, they opened some institutions of classical learning. To support this move, leaders like Raja Ram Mohan Roy indicated the forthcoming demand for English. Even the famous Macaulay minutes recommended Western Learning through the medium of English. After receiving such recommendations reformers and statesman, the government analyzed and gave its permission to start some English medium schools and colleges in major cities. The following are the some of the major reasons for developing English in India.

Keywords: English Language, Higher Education, Macaulay Model, English in India

The English Language:

- Unites all the different regions of India into one and helps to connect India with the rest of the world.
- Becomes the language of trade and commerce and also establishes contact with foreign countries.
- Promotes e-commerce and e-trade transactions.
- It is one of the vehicles for spreading the multi-culture of the modern world.
- Helps to know the latest developments in the field of science and technology.
- Spreads the latest research and findings across the globe.

- Strengthens the International relations and maintains it.
- Is an effective medium for interstate rulers and officers.
- Brings to us all sorts of activities from all parts of the world.
- Is essential for mass media and popular culture to spread worldwide.

The Role of English in Higher Educational Institutions

The English language was used in higher education even before the independence. However, the following points will elicit the problems faced by the students who come from various socio-economic backgrounds for higher education.

- English has become the medium of instruction in a majority of educational institutions including higher education.
- Proficiency in English helps our students not only to acquire knowledge from other countries but also helps them spread ours.
- Indian higher educational institutions follow English as a medium of instruction in order to know the latest events from various countries. So English based instruction equip our students to be academically sound.
- Due to over population and competition, students have to compete for admissions and employment not only in India but also at international level. So, in this competition, students with good English communication skills help them go abroad and get good employment easily.
- It is very important for getting admissions into higher institutions and foreign universities.

Therefore, the aforesaid points reflect how English is deeply rooted in India. Moreover, our National leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru suggested that English should be allowed to continue as a link language though Hindi is our national language. That is why the English language is taught in India for various reasons that require different approaches and conditions for its success in schools, colleges and universities. In a country like India, English is highly essential for social purposes, administrative purposes, and cultural purposes and so on.

There has been an ever-increasing rush for college admissions for the past few decades. The urge for education has been growing day by day among the masses. Therefore, English language teachers have a greater responsibility to teach English in the Higher Educational institutions. However, the language teachers are expected to do the following.

- Students with mixed abilities from different economic backgrounds, environments and

goals must be brought together under the umbrella of education.

- While teaching English in the classroom, special attention must be given to the students who hail from regional-medium institutions from rural areas, as they are first generation students.
- As English is the only medium at higher level, sufficient care must be taken to avoid disparity among the elite and the poor.
- For the benefit of weaker students, institutions or teachers may conduct additional coaching / remedial classes to strengthen their fluency.
- Students must be motivated by citing various job opportunities for those who have fluency in English.
- Teachers should become student friendly and give suitable explanations at their own pace so that students can learn the four language skills easily and effectively.
- To improve their learning habit, evaluation should be done periodically to check their performance and language acquisition level.

English Language Teachers: Issues and Challenges

In India, teachers of English face some issues during teaching in the classrooms. What is expected from them is how best to organize their teaching at various levels in order to minimize students' issues. Some of the problems faced by second language teachers are listed below:

- Overcrowded classes and students with differing abilities in English hinder progressive teaching.
- The increasing trend of students' attending classes without textbooks affects teaching adversely.
- Students' Poor attendance in monthly tests in a large class demotivate the teachers and active learners.

- Dearth of experienced teachers and insufficient classroom facilities cause boredom.
- Vernacular students' discussions and conversations in their mother tongue affects the entire teaching and learning system in English.
- The conventional teaching learning methods demotivate them.
- Lack communication-oriented syllabus and the prohibition of advanced techniques like language lab become barriers to their communication skill improvements.

Though the above-mentioned problems exist everywhere at the higher educational institutions, teachers can eliminate some of the problems. For instance, they can avoid traditional methods (Black Board) of teaching. Instead, they can adopt innovative digital methods to attract students' community.

To sum up, in India, particularly at the higher educational level, the English language has become an instructional language for all sorts teaching, learning and communication purposes. Therefore, the Indian Universities, particularly the Members in the Board of Studies (BOS) in such Universities, while preparing the syllabus, give priority for the aspects which could improve learners LSRW (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing) skills. Because, students have to write so many tests like monthly test, unit-wise test, pre-semester test, model test to complete their course.

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