



**THE PROBLEM OF TEACHING AND LEARNING ENGLISH TO THE RURAL STUDENTS IN
HYDERABAD KARNATAKA REGION**

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ABSTRACT

The first year college students of Karnataka, especially of Hyderabad Karnataka region come from different medium of higher secondary such as English, Kannada, and Urdu. Most of them jump into the college life suddenly without having sufficient knowledge of English language. Though there has been English as a subject in the educational system for nearly ten years in the school life, their knowledge of English is very poor and insufficient. They do struggle in many ways to cope up with the College studies and they are disappointed. Many of them feel inferior and also do not put any effort to improve their standard of English language. Only very few of them come out of their nest and shed their tears to learn and to improve English. The causes for this condition of the students vary from individual to individual. This paper is an attempt to discuss the nature of second language acquisition and the factors responsible for its slow acquisition, especially in the rural pockets of India. Appropriate and adequate remedial measures are cited for the successful rectification of these problems. Hence this study about the first year college going students of Hyderabad Karnataka Region with a special reference to their standard of English, attempts to explore the hidden and unsolved problems in a significant manner.

KEY WORDS: *Knowledge, Problems, Rural area, Manner, Students, Teachers.*

INTRODUCTION

Language acts as an instrument to express effectively in various communicative situations. However, it is the very second language which requires a conscious and diligent, systematic efforts to acquire or master it. Second language acquisition is really a big challenge for all native speakers of that language who really deal with it. The majority of students, particularly from rural area consider this seven –letter word as a magical and mystical word. A feeling of uneasiness sets in, the moment they hear something in English. As a result of this, teachers who handle English classes face insurmountable difficulties. Students find it difficult to listen and to understand the English language. What are the reasons for this? What are the remedial measures to be taken to alleviate these problems?

Education is the universal remedy for all types of problems. To impart quality education to the people is the responsibility of government. Education is crucial for development. It strengthens the individual and society. The importance of English language is well known in India. English is the lingua franca of India. It is one of the most effective mediums of communication in India. Knowledge of English language is required for attaining better career opportunities. It has rich treasure of literature. It is the medium of education. It has become an international language. It is the language



of education, courts, administration in India. The number of colleges has increased tremendously in India. Teachers make every possible effort to impart quality education to the students. If rural students learn English language well, they will get better opportunities for employment. Rural students face many problems to learn English. If the problems are solved, they will learn English in an effective manner.

The study of language is the foundation of all other learning. Language defines us as human. To be human is to use language, and to talk is to be a person. Language is the medium of communication. English as a powerful vehicle of communication serves as a link language in a multicultural and multilingual society like India and also as a global linguistic mediator. It holds a place of status in our country, even after seven decades since Britishers left India. No other language however, has come up to replace English, either as a medium of communication or as an official language. Over the years, it has emerged as a language of choice for commerce, economic growth and social mobility. Teaching students English has consistently emerged as one of the top expectations of parents from school.

Problems faced by the students are:

1. Lack of proper transportation:

In rural areas students have to travel a large distance to reach the college. The transport facility is very poor. Students do not get the vehicles on time to go to college and attend the classroom lectures and enhance their career prospectus. If the transport facility is increased the enrollment and regularity will be enhanced. Some of the villages are not connected with good roads. Roads are not repaired properly. Therefore transport system must be upgraded.

2. Low Income of Parents:

Some of the students in rural India dream to learn and realize their dreams. But income of their parents is low, so their parents cannot send them to college; instead they help their parents in agriculture, dairy business to earn money. Students from poor sections of society must be provided with some incentives. Children from the low income group should be given adequate scholarships to continue and complete their education. Quality text books and learning equipments should be provided.

3. Lack of Infrastructure.

Many colleges in rural India have poor infrastructure. In Twenty first century to support quality higher education, we must provide quality infrastructure. Computers, Language Laboratories, smart boards, internet facility, library with quality books, residential facility for the students who need, decent classrooms, must be provided in order to improve the quality of higher education in India.

4. Problem of Grammar and Vocabulary.

Students from rural background are afraid of learning English language because they have to learn it as a second language. They have to know the system of grammar. If they mastered the rules of grammar, they will get the confidence to create their own original sentence structure. They will be creative in expression of their ideas. Teachers must encourage them to learn grammar, and then practice the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Mock interviews, group discussions, seminars, should be conducted and exposure should be provided to them, so that they will learn English in the systematic manner. A communicator must have a rich vocabulary. Students must be trained to learn new words and use them in conversation. A sense of enthusiasm and hard work is essential to complete any task successfully. Language learning should become an experience of happiness rather than an experience of sorrow.



5. Inadequate Teaching Staff:

Many teaching positions are vacant. Teachers have been overburdened with the extra work. For quality teaching a teacher must get appropriate time for preparation for the lectures. The teachers when they find themselves overburdened with work, they cannot think of the problems faced by students in learning English language.

6. Faulty Management System All colleges are not administered well.

Some colleges are administered as per the rules of administration, but in majority of institutions power is abused. Many colleges are administered poorly. The people who are entrusted with the task of management of the college are driven by commercial interests. They are not the educationists in the real sense but only in name. Teachers are appointed only when they pay a huge amount as donations to the institutions. Many managers have made the business of education. The grants are not properly used. Teachers find it very difficult to maintain their enthusiasm and dedication in the corrupt atmosphere. For quality higher education, we must develop the management system of the institutions.

7. Appropriate Method is not followed.

Implementation of right teaching method creates obstacles in the process of learning language. There are various methods of teaching English. For Indian students English is not their mothertongue. We learn English as second language. The students face the obstacles in the process of learning English. Translation method is often used as suitable method for second language learners. This method has some advantages for comprehension. But it is not useful for development of creativity of the students in the newly acquired language. Direct method of teaching English should be followed with the translation method. Students should be encouraged to participate in group discussions. They should get the learning experience of the language.

8. Lack of Motivation and Encouragement.

Students from rural background of Hyderabad Karnataka region often are not aware about the aims and objectives of teaching and learning English in the Indian context. English language has done great service to the nation both before and after freedom. English language connects country to the world. Students get better job opportunities. They can communicate with ease and excellence. Learning of any language plays an important role in the development of personality of students. They learn the communication skills and can establish a bond of cooperation with people around them. Learning a language develops their confidence. It makes students employable in the service and industry sectors. Teachers should encourage and motivate students to learn English language in the effective manner. Education and the job opportunities must be linked. Teachers must be paid well so that the flow of talented youth will be maintained in the teaching profession.

REMEDIAL MEASURES:

Challenges before the English language teachers in Hyderabad Karnataka Region are enormous. It becomes more challenging and demanding in rural areas because in such areas it is the teacher who is the model, to whom a student looks for all learning needs. They should be able to cater to the practical needs of learners, to make them competent enough to interact with one another and also to retrieve information all over the world.

1. Building a rapport with the class: Assuring smile and greeting from a teacher to the students, helps them bond with the teacher instantly. When the students bond with the teacher, they will find learning the language much easier.



2. Place of English should be defined: English offers vast opportunities to all. The policy regarding the place of English in our education system should be well defined. This should be determined keeping in view its use and vast opportunities in the field of science, technology, social sciences, philosophy, journalism, international trade and diplomacy.
3. Keeping in mind the primary aims of teaching English:
The teacher should enable the students to understand English when spoken.
4. To enable the students to speak, read and write in English Grammar translation method should be avoided
5. Teacher should find some ways of helping students to enjoy the language activities and of building their confidence
6. They should use English as a medium of expression
7. To motivate the students, think through English
8. Create confidence of speaking English in public
9. In a scenario where neither adequate resources nor tools are available, English teachers themselves have to devise innovative ways to make their students climb the staircase easily.
10. A teacher's role is immense in rural areas as the student has only a teacher to imitate and learn from. Teachers' responsibility lies not only with the average and above average students but also with below average and slow learners. A good teacher has to handle classes for all the students in a classroom. Individual attention will solve many problems, which arise while taking class.
11. An English teacher has to encourage the students to talk in English only. This act makes them confident. Teachers should motivate students for participative learning. This will solve all the stumbling blocks in students. Teaching learning is not a one-way process. It is a multi-way process.

CONCLUSION

In India, majority of the workforce comes from rural areas as 75% of India lives in villages. The policy makers have to bridge the urban-rural divide in teaching of English. An English teacher teaching in rural schools has to come up with innovative strategies in the classrooms. Skilled and committed teachers need to be appointed at primary level. Teachers should be upgraded and trained to meet the problems of the learners.

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