



IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN INDIA AND GLOBAL SETUP

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ABSTRACT

“Anyone who can read English can keep in touch with the whole world without living his own home” (1).

-F.G. French

Language is a primary source of communication. It is the method through which we share our ideas and thoughts with others. Communication is more effective because world develops language itself. English is everything that, one can think of the tool of empowerment and alienation. There are thousands of languages in the world. Countries have their own national languages in addition to local languages spoken and understood by their own people in different regions. However, English language has acquired the first position in the present scenario. People from different nations meet and communicate each other for sharing of information and knowledge as well. It is possible only through the use of English language. Since independence it has been playing a dominating part in Indian educational and social setup. In the prehistoric era it was taught in the class room as a second language but now a day's its need and importance is increasing at greater speed. Thus, English has no longer confined to the four walls of classroom an-affair between the taught and the teacher-but it has been acclaimed as a link language for all human activities across the globe. In the present scenario people face many problems due to lack of English language knowledge. Therefore, the focus this paper mainly on the importance of English language its use and necessity in different context.

Keywords: Communication, empowerment, Link Language.

I. INTRODUCTION

English Language is realized as a link language with global significance and also the most wide spread language in the world second only to Chinese. English is now a global lingua franca but was the first a west Germanic language spoken in medieval England. A survey has shown that, it (English) is spoken by more than 750 million people across the globe which is next to Chinese language. But Chinese is confined mostly to the Chinese sub-continent. Whereas English is used in all parts of the globe. It is the language of international politics, trade, commerce, education, and industry. If one want to have a say in the world you must learn English. One out of 10 persons in the world knows English. Not only this but, 75% of the worlds Mail, 60% of the worlds News papers, 50% of the worlds radio stations and media and more than 50% of the worlds scientific and technical periodicals use English as a medium of expression. It is one of the six official languages of the UNO. In India it is now an official language in addition to Hindi as the national language. The University Education Commission (1948) headed by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan recommended “English be studied in high school and universities in order that



we may keep in touch of ever growing knowledge. This would prevent our isolation from the world and help us to take advantage of the wider reach of the English Language.”(2.1)

II. ROLE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN OUR LIFE

English has quite a big role in day to day life. English is used in banks, railway stations, bus stations, airways, educational sector, medical, private sector, etc. English is a trade language with other countries. Many students fly aboard for education and jobs. If their mode of communication is English they can manage their communication with the local people. And students are prime learners of English because if they want to build up a good career, they have to have good English speaking skills and confidence to face many people in interviews. Without English it is very tough to manage in this ultra-modern world. It is a major window of scientific and technical knowledge in the world. As the technology is developing at greater speed it has become the need of time to be in touch with English. Modern lifestyle of people has also changed and hence English communications add more value to it. A person who does not have proficiency in English is considered as the illiterate in the world colonization. There is a significant role of English language in International affairs and inter- state communication.

2.1 Importance and use of English language

English has very often been termed as a window on the rapid progress of technology and scientific knowledge that is constantly taking place in the world. It has been described as pipe-line for the stream of knowledge in all branches of learning. The Radhakrishnan University Education Commission observed, “It (English) is a language which is rich in literature-humanistic, scientific and technical. If under sentimental urges we

should give up English, we would cut ourselves off from the living stream of ever growing knowledge. Unable to

have access to this knowledge our standards of scholarship would fast deteriorate and our participation in the world

movements of thought would become negligible - for living nations must move with the times and must respond quickly to the challenges of their surroundings.(2.2)

The Kothari Commission has rightly stressed that English would play a vital role in higher education as an important library language. The commission maintained that no student should be considered qualified for a degree, in particular as Master’s degree, unless he has acquired a reasonable proficiency in English. According to the Commission , “The implications of this (English as a library language) are twofold : all teachers in higher education should be essentially bilingual in the sense that they should be able to teach in the regional language and in English and all students (Particularly post graduates) should be able to follow lectures and use reading materials in the regional language as well as in English.(2.3)

Following are some important areas where English Language is greatest importance:

1. As a Link Language in the global context:

English language is used as the connector of two countries. As I mentioned above English language is a link language. It is important for international communication. As global communication expands throughout the



world, so does the need for a global language. A language that is recognized and understood by people everywhere. In many parts of the world that language has been established, English. It is estimated that "the number of native English speakers is 300 million to 450 million." (Stevenson) More than one billion people are believed to speak some form of English.(3/4)

2. As the Library Language:

The Kothari Commission (1964-66) endorsed the three language formula, while recommending Hindi and English as link language and English as a library language and a medium of international communication. Two important recommendations in this respect were that English should be the medium of instruction in all universities and a special unit should be set up for teaching English as a skill subject not so much as literature.2.4

3. For Higher Education:

Many aspirants in India and other western countries wants to pursue higher education in other universities of the world for research purpose or any other scientific and technical operations. Here English helps them to reach their destination and opens the window of knowledge. Because rare knowledge of the world is available in English language.

4. For getting job opportunities:

English plays an important role in the employment sector. There are plenty of job opportunities available in the world. Students and scholars from various discipline of the knowledge seek employment in and across the country. Many multinational organizations provide them good platform for the same. World's topmost companies and investors establish their empire in India and other corner of the globe to increase their capital and recruit English literate manpower.

5. English is useful for Business transactions:

No business can be run without skilled manpower. In the business organizations first criteria of recruitment of employees is good command and enough proficiency in English.

6. Official Language:

English is used mostly in all the offices today. All the transactions are carried out in English. The abolition of English will adversely affect the office work. Most office-goers know English, but many of them do not know other languages besides their mother-tongue or regional language. Thus, they Communicate with each other in English for their everyday work. So, if the office-goers are asked to bid goodbye to the English language, they will face a great difficulty.

7. Language of Media and Entertainment:

As discussed above worlds 70% medias and entertainment channels use English for broadcasting purpose. The world become global village due to electronic media. It brought the people of whole world very close through expanding use and it has become possible through English language only.

8. Language of Information Technology:

Computer specialists develop and maintain the computer equipment and software programs that form the basis of the Internet. They make up the majority of professional and related occupations, and account for about 34 percent of the industry as a whole. Computer programmers write, test, and customize the detailed instructions,



called programs or software that computers follow to perform various functions such as connecting to the Internet or displaying a Web page in English. Language teaching in general and English language teaching in particular has tremendously changed over the centuries. Educational technologies, especially computers and computer-related peripherals, have grown tremendously and have permeated all areas of our lives. It is incomprehensible that anyone today would argue that banks, hospitals, or any industry should use less technology. The Internet in particular is becoming an increasingly vital tool in our information society. More people are going online to conduct such day-to-day activities as education, business transactions, personal correspondence, research and information-gathering.

III. CONCLUSION

Thus, it is not denying fact that, English is a language of world. There is increasing use of it in our life. Many countries in the world use English as a mother tongue. Communication in English became worthwhile in the present setup. Therefore if a person speaks good Language may be known as an international guy. If one get enough mastery over English he can share his/her thoughts, gather information, knowledge etc..and keep in touch with the world.

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