

Enhancement of English Communication Skills is Achievable for Engineering Students through Their Course Curriculum

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Abstract:

English language has become a 'Lingua Franca' in this global competitive scenario. It is predominantly recognized as a major language to communicate in many of the spheres in present situation by people all around the world. This present research article throws light on the importance of communicating in foreign language and different approaches and methods to improve it among engineering students in Andhra Pradesh. It also tries to bring out the challenges that technical graduates face in speaking and understanding this second language in this regional state. It also emphasizes emergence of acquiring communication in English which fetches global opportunities. It also highlights the difficulties of B.Tech students in writing and reading English at graduation level and also the role of English language curriculum in the syllabus which is prescribed by JNTUK in this Telugu speaking state.

Key Words: *regional state, engineering students, competitive scenario, foreign language, global opportunities, Lingua franca, Telugu state and language curriculum.*

Introduction

English is the most widely spoken language around the world. It has been playing a vital role in this multi linguistic country like India. Moreover it is introduced as a second language in regional medium schools in both Northern and Southern Indian states. To the surprise of everyone, most of the Indians show interest in sending their children to English Medium rather than regional medium. To some extent it has become a passion as this foreign language paves dais for opportunities globally.

In the regional state of Andhra Pradesh, English is the most spoken language after Telugu and Urdu in schools and colleges. Generally, students who choose engineering as their career get through SSC from state board, ICSC or CBSE boards and enter into Intermediate where they will be given only option not a choice of their delicacy. Students are got educated into Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry as a group of subjects to pave path to engineering education through a qualifying exam EAMCET after completion of their two years intermediate course. Approximately, there are 363 engineering colleges in this state by the academic year of 2018-19 and a total of 84,014 seats have been filled by private, government and autonomous colleges.

Importance of English communication skills for engineering students

English language plays a pivotal role in both career and studies of technical students. It is difficult to find a job for these technical graduates without possessing communication skills and fluency in English because one has to understand concepts and convey of messaging to their clients, customers or supervisors once they get into job. Without fluency in English, academic writing skills in this foreign language it would be difficult for a survival in this competitive world.

English is necessary for students even in social life too. It certainly helps to maintain strong relationships and good understanding among their peers. It is also known as a bridge language of International business, technology, education and research. About 1.8 million people in the world speak English and it is still increasing due to its importance.

English language is prescribed as one of the subjects along with technical subjects for minimum of four semesters in the four years of program. In order to develop language skills among these engineering graduates, language labs are also established in these colleges as well in the curriculum. These engineering students are offered jobs in different Multi National Companies or industries basing on their academic performances and communication skills. But the performances of the students at the Campus Interviews are not at the satisfactory level due to lack of communication skills.

A big reason for acquiring effective communication in English as well fluency is mandatory for the engineering professionals besides expertise in technical skills. It helps them to prove their mettle and their productive outcome is highly recognized by the organization.

Challenges of engineering students to communicate effectively in English:

Many of the students hail from rural and remote areas of this regional state. It leads to an ambiguous situation at technical graduation level to communicate in foreign language as it is neither given importance nor provided training for them. Moreover the core subjects are much prioritized whereas the importance of languages are completely kept in dark at the level of intermediate or +2. In this regard, it is a fact that students are clearly lost their connectivity with the language and forced all the way to speak in engineering campus. This challenge is especially raised by bilingual students.

Another big reason for this chronic problem is ineffective teaching and outdated methods followed by the teachers. The text books or course books prescribed at the engineering course levels are to be recapitulated by the academicians as a reason that students have become uncompetitive and inefficient at job interviews.

Many engineering colleges in Andhra Pradesh are affiliated to Jawaharlal Nehru Technical University, Kakinada. The syllabus prescribed by this university is under a two year regulation system. English is prescribed for four semesters according to R10 and only for two semesters according R16 and only for one semester and lab practical for second semester is according to R19. Due to this, there is an ambiguity among these technical graduates. Most of the students are

from rural background those have acquaintance of writing and reading English what is given in the course book and their language skills are absolutely limited to this parameter.

According to Reiner, “the colleges and educational institutes whoever trained their pupils in communications skills those young graduates of new global world will be able to meet the demand of corporate”. Mr. Narayanan, Vice-Chairman of the NASSCOM has commented that the availability of engineers is not an issue whereas the number of engineers who fit into frame of the industrial requirements is the matter at present scenario. In these ambiguous situations there is a great urge to modify the curriculum and develop pedagogy to enhance various skills of communication of engineering graduates.

Conclusion

Technical communication skills have become more important day by day and it leads to much competition and result oriented for these technical graduates thus engineering curriculum requires broader perspectives that will be innovative and creative for the students to handle pressures and the challenges this 21st century. Universities have to recognize the necessity of communication skills and need to make necessary changes and help students to discover the uses of English language.

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