

4Es: The Most Challenging Zones in the Present Literate Society

A Brief Overview in the Global Context

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Abstract:

The knowledge based society is an expression of the developed society. Education plays a vital role in all-round development of an individual. In this paper the most challenging zones in the present literate society were overviewed briefly in global context. Important issues concerning Education, English, Empowerment, and Employment were reviewed. Education is a powerful tool for empowerment, as it reducing inequality as it can give individual the ability to become independent. English has a very important status as a means of communication in official context. Proficiency in English is considered essential for a person's personal and professional growth. Employability skills makes an individual to gain employment and for getting success in their preferred livelihood. This paper highlights the role of English in getting better opportunities for empowerment and employment and is a dominant factor in upward mobility.

Key words: Education, English, Empowerment, Employment, Global Context

Introduction

The knowledge based society, as an expression of the developed society, tries to connect the needs of human nature, ever growing and more and more diversified, with its own regeneration, coming up with ways of developing the inexhaustible resources – the human intelligence, the innovative spirit, the associative creativeness, etc. It is a language which is rich in language, literature-humanistic, scientific and technical. This is very true in Indian context as we live in an era of modern science and technology where the media or the language of communication is only English which is demand of time and need of everyone who wish to be grown up with the knowledge, skills and information. It is also a tool of securing the job a dream job which is possible through English language.. English has become a powerful agent for change in India (Graddol, 2010) [1]. With technology bringing us closer and English becoming a global language, proficiency in English is considered essential for a person's personal and professional growth.

Education is a fundamental Activity in the Knowledge Based Society A stratified three tiered structure that enables seamless vertical and horizontal mobility of students would be able to create the desired intellectual, economic and social value – Vision Document for India's Higher Education. It helps the individual to reduce inequality and play a central role in human development that impacts the overall social economic development. We are living in a society dominated by change. The technical, economical and social evolution has shaped people's way of living and thinking. Recent trends and revolutions are transforming the modern economy into a knowledge based society in which new ways of organizing the work are governing the world, demanding a perpetual build up of competences, a rapid spread of high performance technologies, solid knowledge and increasing responsibilities.

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English as a means of Communication

Today's workforce is expected to be highly competent to continually improve skills and engage in lifelong learning. The aim of learning a language is directly linked with the LSRW skills that are to be developed. Social development is a prominent feature of effective techniques of communication, which is necessary for sustaining the growth and development. The need for learning a language arises from the point of view of its adaptability, productivity, utility, universality and teachability. Thus today, it can be said that though English has almost lost its pre-colonial beauty of literariness, but it has acquired a very colorful communicative mode. Dr. Samuel Johnson said that "Language is the dress of thought". By the end of 20th century English began to emerge as a global. English is firmly rooted in the soil of India. English has now established as 'lingua franca' of much scholarship. To achieve success in one's career, it is essential to acquire an ability to speak English effectively and fluently. The Great Britain statesman, Gladstone, had rightly stated- "Many a professional man now in obscurity might have risen to the highest rank if he had been farseeing enough to train his voice." In 1700s, English became the official language of administration and many educated Indians learnt the language as it helped them to go up the career ladder. (Graddol). Henry Hitchings in his well known work titled *The Language Wars: A History of the Proper English* quotes: No language has spread as widely as English, and it continues to spread. Internationally the desire to learn it is insatiable.

Economic globalization has also made English one of the most powerful means of international communication. (Murata & Jennifer Jenkins 2009:208). The role of English in business world is well-known and to handle international business deals English language skills play a vital role (Pandey & P. Pandey 2014). The role of English language can be viewed in the light of the role of any language. Hubpages (2015) highlights the followings as some importance of English language: English is the International Common Tongue, Education: English is also essential to the field of education, WWW and the Media, Travelling and touring, Economy and commerce, Entertainment language, Racism. English language is used as a contrivance in empowering students for social mobility and economic development. Though English language is not the native language for Indians, it is accepted as the global language as it is becoming a language of opportunity and also it gratifies all our economic needs. It is used as a common language in almost many fields such as business, education, travel, jobs and most prominently in economic development. English language is inseparable from modern technology, media and money Power. Here money empowers outlooks for the economic development or earning power. With the aggregate knowledge of English as the second language in all over the world, knowledge in English is pivotal to social and economic interaction. For a sustainable development of a country, there must be the better number of employed people. Thus, for the employability knowledge in soft skills is essential. The intellectual and skillful citizens increase developmental opportunities which have a great impact on the world economy and job opportunities

Empowerment & English is a tool of Empowerment for Employability

English, a global language, has the highest instrumental value to empower people in their educational aspirations and in the employment market. This globalization of English language has resulted in remarkable changes in the patterns of communication, which poses some direct and indirect challenges to the teaching of English as both a second and a foreign language in developing countries. English language teachers need to better equip themselves to meet these challenges in the field of education and for employment, which will have a reciprocal effect not only on the recipients, but also on the providers. English had become a tool for empowerment attached with economic value. English has emerged as a world language today. It is also a tool of intellectual discussion and social interaction among the members of the educated class. English has now established as 'lingua franca' of much scholarship. To achieve success in one's career, it is essential to acquire an ability to speak English effectively and fluently. The ever growing need for good communication skills in English has created a huge demand for teaching and learning quality English around the world. It makes the candidate confident, self reliant, good communicator which is a need of present time. English language is a one of the most important figure in the present scenario. It has majorly been faced by various professionals in the organizations and corporate sectors. The fact is that finding a job in this competitive world and to survive in that is a great challenge. Every authority looks for qualified, talented, smart and confident employees. English is a link language, world language, International language, business language, language of commerce and trade. we are living in the digital world of information communicative technology and we cannot deny the fact that English is a tool of empowerment for employability because for employability this language is a gem of all the fields of business world whether it is a soft ware companies, engineering, medical, science, aviation, education, humanities etc every where their process starts in English. So English is not only very important and necessary now a days but it opens the gateway of business world

and makes us a good communicator with entrepreneurship. The essence of the paper is, in future the demand of English will grow and capture all the corners of the business world which affects a lot to the employability because there are so many large projects which aim at improving the society through English and can be a mode for sustainable development through these three Es' that is Education, Equity and Employability.

Employability Skills as Career Management Skills

Contemporary definitions of employability emphasize the acquisition of skills and attributes that allow the individual to secure and maintain employment, to develop within a particular job and have the ability to move on to a new sustainable employment if required. This involves possessing particular knowledge, skills and attitudes with an ability to deploy them and market them to employers. (Lowden et al., 2011, p. 6). Employability is a multi-faceted characteristic of a person, a set of skills, knowledge and personal attributes that make an individual more likely to secure and be successful in their chosen occupation(s) to the benefit of them, the workforce, the community and the economy. (Yorke 2006). Employability skills are those basic skills necessary for getting, keeping, and doing well on a job (Robinson, 2000). Employability skills are the key skills and personal attributes that one needs to enter, use and thrive in the new world of work. Employment skills basically fall into two categories; Soft skills and hard skills. Job or discipline-specific skills knowledge, related qualifications and competencies and career management skills for a particular job or role (referred to as 'hard skills'). And other more generic skills, capabilities and enabling skills (referred to as 'soft skills', employability Skills, or people's skills) that are equally as important for career success. The USEM model by Knight and York emphasizes the interrelated nature of skills and attributes that together constitute a graduate's employability: Understanding (of disciplinary subject matter and how organizations work); Skilful practices (academic, employment, and life in general); Efficacy beliefs (reflects the learner's notion of self, their self-belief, and the possibility for self-improvement and development); Metacognition (complements efficacy, embraces self-awareness, how to learn and reflection). Employability skills also embrace certain personal aspects such as self-confidence, self-control, inter and intra personal skills, honesty, integrity, decision making skills, problem solving skills, reliability, adaptability, flexibility, willingness to learn, stress lenience, time organization, taking initiatives etc. Employability skills makes an individual to gain employment and for getting success in their preferred livelihood. Main employability skills in case of English language are -Listening skills, Speaking skills, Reading skills, Writing skills, Developing programs, Adaptation, Team work, Leadership, Planning & Organizing, Making effective presentations, Decision making, Problem solving, Time Management, Commercial awareness, Persuading & negotiating, Determination, Lateral Thinking. We can define Employability skills as the capability of getting and keeping satisfactory work.

Conclusion

The face of modern India is changed drastically due to globalization it has brought to India different cultures. In the knowledge-based society the mission of the educational system becomes a key component of change. English had become a tool for empowerment attached with economic value. To achieve success in one's career, it is essential to acquire an ability to speak English effectively and fluently. The students who are ensured with good proficiency in English can be easily shined in the workplace. To become expert in language is essentially required to the students for sustaining good careers. Individually everybody should strive hard to acquire very good communication skills which are the most important prerequisites to excel in one's career. Without error no true learning can take place. Unless the new technology is adopted in English language teaching, we cannot impart language skills in our learners at the rate of growing competition. English Communication Laboratory is an elevating tool in learning English language skills through technology, in the present generation. Subjects are of knowledge-oriented and skill-oriented. Knowledge-oriented subjects are taught and learnt, but skill-oriented subjects are tried, trained and practiced. No one can deny the fact that skills are acquired, not taught or learnt. Enthusiasm is the most propelling force in acquiring mastery over any skill targeted. Learning a language is like learning skills such as swimming, driving and painting. Though language is a tool for communication, it is a powerful tool for communication for any effective communicator. Mastery over skills is acquired by means of constant practice. Language proficiency cannot be attained just by studying the rules of grammar or some prescribed textbooks, but by constant practice interwoven with zeal and zest. Therefore, we must all keep pushing and improving ourselves to help our university students to develop and hone their communication skills that is essential towards their future career development. Curricula must involve students actively in their studies and in genuine communicative tasks. The Ministry of Education, Colleges and Universities need to provide professional development courses to demonstrate to teachers how this can be done.

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