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Importance of English Language in India: It's Role in Present Scenario

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Abstract:- *In the present scenario, English is a widely spoken language. It is referred to 'global language', the Multi-lingua franca of the modern era. It is the language most often taught as a second language around the world. In India, English is used in the process of communication with the outside world, It is also used for inter-state and intrastate communication. India does have great ethnic and linguistic diversity and we can therefore find English acting as an indispensable 'link' language. With the advanced development in Information Technology, Science, Medical, Irrigation, Education, Mass communication, software and operating systems, a new utility for written and oral communication in the English language has emerged. English is said to be the world's most important language which has communicative and educative value. English is used all over the world not out of any compulsion but because of the realization that it has certain advantages.*

Key Words: *global language, Multi-lingua franca, indispensable link language.*

INTRODUCTION

One of the major problems that has grabbed our attention in the recent years is the role of English in the different fields of our life. Since Britishers invaded our country, English has been playing a dominating role in our daily and professional life. Today it has become a symbol of people's aspirations for quality in education and a fuller Participation at national and international life and it's no wonder to say that it is the symbol of elite people. The visible impact of this presence of English is that it is today being demanded by everyone at the initial stage of schooling which has it's importance even at the higher level of education. Consequently, the role and importance of English language in our national curriculum has increased to a greater extent. The present writing is an attempt to highlight the importance of English language in today's Indian society and the role it plays in present national and international set up.

ROLE OF ENGLISH

English plays quite a multi dimensional role in day to day life. It is used as a medium of communication in banks, railway stations, bus stations, airways, educational sector, medical, private sector, etc. English is a link language and is used in trade and business both at national and international level. Students who fly abroad for education and jobs would be at ease if they have efficient communication skills. We are aware of the fact that students are prime learners of English as it helps in designing their career and accomplish their goals. If the students are proficient in interactive skills, they would have confidence to face most of the challenging people which turns out to be a good experience for them to apply the same to face interviews. English has become indispensable in this ultra-modern world, It is a major window of scientific and technical knowledge in the world. With the development in technology, there is also an increase in the need to learn English to meet the requirements of existing circumstances. Modern lifestyle of people has also changed and hence English communication adds more value to it. In the present scenario, a person who does not have proficiency in English is considered as semi-illiterate or an illiterate.

2.1 Importance and use of English language

English has very often been termed as a window of the world as it has its influence in different fields like business, education, IT, science, technology etc. It has often 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 has its importance:

1. As a Link Language in the global context:

English 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. English is only the language that is recognized and understood by people in many parts of the world . 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 is of view that English plays a vital role in Higher education and is a 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 study materials in the regional language as well as in English."

3. For Higher Education:

English is very much essential to many aspirants in India and other western countries who want 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 since most of the knowledge through books and materials is available only in English language.

4. For getting job opportunities:

English plays a pivotal role in the employment sector. Students and scholars from various disciplines of the knowledge seek employment in and across the country. Multinational organizations always recruit candidates with excellent communication skills and 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:

Coming to trade and commerce both nationally and Internationally, English is a link language which makes the transactions take place with ease. No business can be run without skilled manpower. In most of the business organizations the first criterion for recruitment of employees is good command over language and proficiency in English.

6. Official Language:

English is employed by many of the offices today. We could not imagine any office without the use of English language. The abolition of English will adversely affect the office work. Most of the office-goers know English besides their mother-tongue or regional language. Thus, they prefer to communicate in English to fulfill their everyday accomplishments. 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:

It is a known fact that 70% media and entertainment channels use English for broadcasting purpose. Electronic media made the world transform into a global village, it brought the people of whole world very close through expanding use and this has become possible only through English language.

8. Language of Information Technology:

Software programmers develop 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 apply technical knowledge. The Internet in particular gradually has become a vital tool in our information society. We can witness people going for online education, business transactions, personal correspondence, research and information-gathering.

III. CONCLUSION

Thus, it is not a denying fact that, English is a Multi lingua franca of the world. The usage of English is constantly been increasing in many countries and it is the mother tongue in most of the countries. Communication in English became worthwhile in the present scenario. If one gets enough mastery over English he can share his/her thoughts, gather information, knowledge etc and keep in touch with the challenging world thus improving his career which results in the development of the country.

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