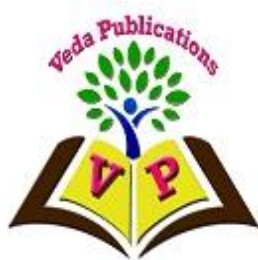


ROLE OF COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN TEACHING LEARNING PROCESS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract



The role of the teachers in the present millennium is to impart in-depth knowledge and understanding to the students so as they may advance to the new frontiers of knowledge in different walks of life. Education is not only a vehicle of growth but it also an effective and reliable instrument to ensure social justice in the society. Good communication skills are a prerequisite for those in teaching profession. Carefully planned and skillfully delivered message, can motivate the students to take part in classroom discussions, share ideas, create and collaborate with others. The place of effective communication is so central and indispensable in the teaching learning process that the teacher requires effective communication skills in conveying the aims and objectives of education to the students so that they become efficient and an asset to the society.

Keywords: *Teachers, Students, Effective Communication, Objectives, Assets, Society.*

Swami Vivekananda has rightly said, “Education can unlock all doors for progress. A nation advances in proportion to education and intelligence spread amongst the masses.” It is an evident fact that if India has to grow as a strong and prosperous nation it is only possible through the changing role of the teachers as educators in the truest sense. It is only through transparent and regenerative power of education that this truly creative endeavor can come into being.

The role of the teachers in the present millennium is to impart in-depth knowledge and understanding to the students so as they may advance to the new frontiers of knowledge in different walks of life. It is the teacher’s duty to develop the student’s ability to question and make him competent to be a critique on the contemporary issues. He should help his pupil to broaden the intellectual power of the students within a narrow specialization and render him the speculative inquisitiveness to gain access to the wider perspective of the world, around him.

The contemporary view of the education is to create develop modernize and strengthen the civilization, which plays a significant role for the ultimate development of the society at large. Education is not only a vehicle of growth but it also an effective and reliable instrument to ensure social justice in the society. It acts as a liberating force to fight against the poverty and hindrances that curtail the growth of the society. The present education in spite of its flaws has the capacity to bring almost all round development of the students but it mainly depends upon the role of the teacher in effective communication. Therefore a network of institutions of higher education including Universities, colleges, institutions of specialized education, Research institutes are created to bring out a new type of awakening to transfer and ensure expansion, inclusion and excellence.

In this competitive world quality is going to be the buzz word and so it should be focal point for our policies and programmes. It is the teacher who has to take the centre stage to be a facilitator and a motivator for the students. It is the teacher who has to be the role model for his students and stand firm and undeterred amidst the storm that tries to engulf its achievements in the society. American Commission on higher education said that, “the quality of a nation depends upon the quality of its citizens and the quality of its citizens

depends upon the quality of their education". We can say the quality of education depends upon the single factor and that is the quality of the teachers.

Jawaharlal Nehru has said that the destiny of the nation is being shaped in the classrooms and the destiny maker is no one else than the teachers. Kothari Commission in its report in 1966 observed that, of all the factors that influence the quality of education are the quality, competence and the character of the teachers. The national policy on education in 1986 remarked "the status of the teacher reflects the socio cultural ethos of a society" It is said that no one can rise above the level of the teachers. Smith long ago stated, "a teacher affects eternity: he can never tell where his influence stops." Thus the teachers have to play a significant role in the society as he/she is the architect of the nation, harbinger of social ethos, and propelling the society and the nation towards prosperity, progress and development.

We all know that English language has been a powerful instrument of thought and communication right from the days of struggle for independence and had also served the purpose of social and economical growth. The significance of English did not diminish after independence; on the contrary it grew manifold. The nation responded to it in a new perspective and the value of English was seen as a means of serving our national interest. Learning and teaching of English in India is an important process of the overall education curriculum at the primary as well as the University level. The significance of English language and communication skills is accepted by almost everybody not only in the educational field but also in other fields of human activity in the society at larger canvas. English language and its importance of learning has spread all over India, as it has produced immense job opportunities around the world. There is a progressive positive environment among students in urban areas. Urban students are grabbing jobs based on their communication skills in English, which is a good sign.

Earlier language was learnt through sheer hard work, where the learner needed to make efforts to understand repeat and make accurate use of it either in speaking or in writing. With the passage of time communication and interactive approaches to language learning had made learners learn a language with ease as we all know the main aim of teaching is not memorization of the answers but the students should understand the concept and find creative solutions to the problems themselves.

Effective communication is the most significant essentials of human life in the society. More than ever before, its importance is being heightened by the fact that the whole world has now become a global village due to the development of the modern technology. But its effectiveness can be hindered by the communication gap which signifies failure amongst the group of people. As per our personal experiences we can also come to the conclusion that great organizations fail or prosper only due to its way of effective communication in the society.

Teaching learning in schools and colleges require skilful and effective communication. Quite a number of students fail not because of the slow competency in academics or lack of readiness for learning but due to the ineffective communication skills of some of the teachers in the classrooms coupled with the fact that most often the teaching language is secondary and foreign to the learners. Communication skills involve listening and speaking as well as reading and writing. Effective communication skills are really important for a teacher in transmitting of education, classroom management and interaction with the students in the classrooms. A teacher has to teach students with different thinking ability and approach.

Good communication skills of a teacher is the basic need of academic success of the students and the professional success of life, thereby it becomes the most necessary tool in the hands of the teacher. Communication can be said to be effective in the classroom when learning actually takes place among the students. In the classroom teaching and learning process, effective communication may be said to serve both functional and psychological purposes.

The teacher is in a position to get an instant feedback from the student's gestures, facial expressions, voice inflation and other such physical signs and movements. Another important aspect is that the teacher is in a position to tolerate the errors committed by the students and to consider it as a natural outcome of the development of communication skills. One of the major roles of the teacher here is to create such situations which are likely to promote communication. The teacher acts as a facilitator in setting up various communicative activities for the students. The grammar and the vocabulary that the students learn follow from the function and the situational context.

Thus the teacher facilitates a proper communication in the classroom and his/her function lies in creating a proper atmosphere to promote communication. He/she acts as an advisor,

answers their queries and monitors their performance. He also should take note of the errors that they are committing to be worked out later. Since the teacher's role is less dominating, the students enjoy it, it is no more boredom to them and they tend to be more responsible managers of their own learning and can thus contribute more to the society, as it gives them more of a choice. Students get a free hand to explore and express their ideas and opinions freely. Thus, true communication becomes purposeful and it can be evaluated whether the purpose has been achieved or not.

Non verbal communication also helps the learner to a greater extent as the real intention of the communicator is shown through body gestures and eye contact, facial expressions, dress etc which makes non verbal communication more effective than oral and written communications. In the teaching learning process, the teacher can ensure that learning is effectively imparted by complementing both oral and written communications with eye contact with the pupils, facial expressions and even touching or patting them occasionally.

Visual communication has now become the watchword in the era of industrialization and globalization. This is the most effective and the most favorite of the young generation which facilitates an effective aid in teaching and learning process. It involves teaching aids such as pictures, overhead projectors and smart phones. This type of communication methodology triggers the retention ability of the students to whatever they see, they do not forget easily.

Today's world is the world of telephones, smart phones, emails, fax and internet. These modern devices have glued the entire world together in a single thread; all information can be attained at the click of a button. Teachers can give assignments, check the results online as well as teach the lessons online. There's no dearth of opportunities for the students as well as the teachers. This also prevents boredom in the class and makes them active learners. Effective communication skills are required by the teacher to reinforce proper teaching learning mechanism in the classroom so as to benefit the society at large.

English is growing exponentially, but whether our colleges and institutes are really well equipped in teaching English and communication skills to such teeming millions, especially those hailing from semi urban areas and whether appropriate methodologies have been developed by our pedagogues in this regards, is a great question. In such a scenario, teaching English and communication skills to non native speakers poses a great threat to the teachers

as the students come from diverse backgrounds and they tend to have different level of comprehension, different level of attention spans, different psychological needs and different economic and socio cultural backgrounds.

Another major problem faced by the teachers in teaching English as a second language is their social and cultural milieu. They feel alienated in this different environment. Another thing that should be considered is the problem of the students coming from English medium schools finding the syllabus of the University, Lower Level. Compulsory English taught at the college level is of substandard quality with less or no weightage to the communication skills. Hence, it fails to generate interest amongst the students. The quality of the course content should be updated to the advanced level so that the students can take it with renewed interest.

It is very saddening to note that in spite of so many years of learning the students are not able to communicate in English. They are not able to write or converse properly or comprehend. Hence an urgent need is to realign the curriculum to impart communicative skills to the students. A few points can be kept in mind to reassess the curriculum to suit the present needs of the students.

The need of the hour is to provide the students to enhance and enrich their competitive ability. Hence, stress be laid on seminars, projects, interactive sessions which will thereby provide practical approach to curriculum. Interaction is the key to develop competence. It is an evident fact that language learning requires various factors like beliefs, style, strategies, attitude and motivation. In the contemporary era where we talk of a globalized world, the present curriculum at the University level fails to evolve and transform according to the needs and demands of the times. It is disheartening to note that in spite of the repeated and revised syllabus it fails to imbibe the most relevant factors of teaching learning process. It is very essential for the students to come to terms with the preparatory and practical approach before they embark on their professional careers.

Thus the ultimate aim of education is to impart knowledge to the learners and prepare them for their future life. Modern world is a globalized one wherein effective and efficient communication skills are required to be a part of this competition. The place of effective communication is so central and indispensable in the teaching learning process that the

teacher requires effective communication skills in conveying the aims and objectives of education to the students so that they become efficient and an asset to the society. They should therefore try as much as possible to reduce communication barriers in order to ensure effective attainments of desired goals in the lives of the students. Thus it aims broadly to apply the theoretical perspective of the communicative approach by making communicative competence the goal of language teaching and by acknowledging the interdependence of language and communication in the changing society.

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