

## IMPROVING THE SKILLS OF RURAL STUDENTS WITH INNOVATIVE METHODS OF TEACHING ENGLISH LANGUAGE USING LISTENING, SPEAKING, READING AND WRITING



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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### ABSTRACT

The justification of learning any language is to communicate effectively and no communication is possible if one doesn't get a chance to communicate. It is natural that the demand for communication is high in this ever-changing world. Language plays a key role in communication and English is no doubt the foremost and most important tool of communication all over the world. Students in India are exposed to their language studies right from their primary level. English is taught only as a second language in India and there is a great difference between the city-bred students and the rural students in adapting to English language. The city-bred students are exposed to a lot of methods of learning English with ample facilities and special training in colleges to improve their Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing skills which are the basic skills for learning any language whereas rural students have only limited exposure to learn English. Language learning is a skill that can be perfected only through constant practice and continuous exposure to the target language, the available resources should be completely tapped so as to provide an encouraging atmosphere for learning and practicing the language. The present paper deals with the effective methods which can be employed in teaching English to the rural students for their enhancement..

The purpose of learning any language is to communicate effectively and no communication is possible if one doesn't get a chance to communicate. It is natural that the demand for communication is high in this ever-changing world. Language plays a crucial role in communication and English is no doubt the foremost and most important tool of communication all over the world. Individually every man should strive hard to acquire good communication skills which are the most important prerequisites to excel in one's career. **Language Learning.** As said, any superior skill can be mastered with ease, if you have time to learn and practice. Language learning is a skill that can be perfected only through constant practice and continuous exposure to the target language. Students in India are taught English as a second language even though they are exposed to language studies right from their primary level. There seems to be a great difference between the city children and the rural children getting acquainted with English Language. Since 70% of the students in India are from rural background and most of them are first generation learners, they lack guidance of English language from their parents and others. Learning English is their Achilles' heel.

### Position of Rural and Urban Students

The city-bred children are exposed to a lot of modules and they have the privilege of learning English through different methods. Special training is available in the city schools to improve the students' Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing skills which are the basic skills for learning any language whereas the rural students have only limited exposure to learn English. The training provided in schools, is purely theoretical and bookish and English is

taught only in the exam point of view. Hence, even after twelve years of learning English as a subject the students hesitate to communicate in English. This applies to city-bred children also, many of them are good in English but when it comes to the point of communicating in English hesitation prevails more among students. It is high time to motivate the students, right from their school by creating an awareness regarding the importance of English language. It is necessary that the teachers who teach English in rural areas should be committed and have an honest approach to equip the skills of the students. The available resources should be completely tapped so as to provide an encouraging atmosphere for learning and practicing the language. The present paper deals with the effective methods which can be employed in teaching English to the rural students for their development. Today, conventional teaching methods are replaced with modern techniques which rely hugely upon media resources and teaching English with the help of such new techniques fosters a positive attitude among the rural students to learn the language which would allow them to meet the demands of the day in a creative way.

### Problems faced by the rural students

To begin with, the first and the foremost factor is the Socio-Cultural and financial background of the family. As most of the parents are illiterate, they are not able to guide their wards as educated parents do. Hence, the students' performance lacks parental supervision and guidance which is very necessary for education. The illiterate parents are unable to realize the importance of education and also they do not understand the importance of communication skills which plays a vital role in their ward's career.

The students from rural areas who attend the college in their neighbourhoods are not exposed to the same type of facilities and motivated as the city-bred students. In cities, the students get motivated through two ways: Instrumental and Integrative motivation. Learning a language only for rewards is instrumental motivation, on the other hand integrative motivation includes the urge to be part of the community which is so strong that drives the student to pick up the language with perfection. Regarding the syllabus, the most important point is in most of the colleges English is taught as any other subject. The importance of English as a communicative tool is not realized. So the existing methods followed at rural schools are not enough to train the students to communicate effectively in English. Due to this, the students from rural area who take up professional courses face a lot of difficulties.

### Effective Methods of Teaching English

In learning a language concentration should be on four main skills namely

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

#### Listening:

Listening is the one basic skill which makes speaking possible. Nobody can speak a language without listening to it. Even an infant starts speaking in a particular language after listening to it for many months. As we adapt a syllabus in which writing and reading of English is given much importance, our students are deprived of speaking abilities because they have not been properly guided in listening skills. This may be the basic reason why they have not been able to speak English in a proper manner.

#### Activities for Listening:

The following activities can be implemented to improve the listening skills.

- Listening to recorded speeches, dialogues, interviews and discussions
- Listening to news bulletins, chat shows, commentaries, weather reports and announcements on TV
- Watching English movies on Television
- Watching talk shows on Television
- Listening to speeches of politicians
- Watching headlines

These activities help students learn pronunciation, improve vocabulary, learn jargons related to various fields.

#### Speaking:

Creating and exposing students to English speaking environments should be given foremost importance when speaking exercises are designed.

#### Day- to – Day Expression:

Expressions of greeting, gratitude, small talk,

introductions and making acquaintance, leave-taking, appreciation, expressions of regret and asking to be excused, taking routes, counting, terms related to money transaction etc., are very important communicative acts students need to master.

#### Reading:

Reading exercises are very important since they help to widen and deepen the student's linguistic skills.

- Separate assignments for reading should be given.
- At the initial stage students should be encouraged to read aloud so that the mistakes in pronunciation, stress and pause could be corrected.
- Students should be encouraged to read the phrases at a single stretch, not going from word to word.

#### Writing:

The following activities would help a lot to improve writing skills.

- Writing dairy daily
- Listing objects in pictures
- Writing review of the recently watched movies
- Creating headlines from current affairs
- Making a monthly calendar or birthday card for a classmate

The above activities that tune the English Language skills if conducted properly would definitely yield better results. The teacher should not always attempt to correct every error which may upset or discourage the students. It is the role of the teacher to create a conducive climate in which the students can fearlessly exercise the language and acquire communicative competence.

### CONCLUSION

As a teacher of English, especially those who teach rural students need to be very patient and systematic. This is a real challenge which may sound impractical, but it would be highly unjust on the part of the English teacher if he/she overlooks the seriousness behind the issue and it would deprive the students' opportunities which are mainly attained through communication skills and the specific purpose of f teaching English as a communicative tool would get lost.

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