

TEACHING ENGLISH AS SECOND LANGUAGE: FACTORS AND PROBLEMS AT RURAL AREAS

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ABSTRACT

The present paper describes the factors and problems of English language teaching and learning at rural area. As it is universally acknowledge and globally accepted English as an international language. The demand for the language has been increasing in most of the fields and places in India. Though there is high demand for English language and the parents and teachers are aware of this fact, there are some factors that are affecting teaching and learning process. The present study tries to explore the challenges, factors of teaching English language at rural area.

KEY WORDS: *teaching, learning, factor, problem, rural area*

INTRODUCTION:

As it is said earlier, the English language has got an important role in the daily life of everyone. English language has got inevitable place in the lives of people who desire to reach their careers anywhere in the world. There has been great demand of good communication skills. English Language has got worldly recognition as a language that is used globally in communication. In today's world, for a successful career in any field, a person must possess good command over English language. It is regarded as stepping stone in one's successful career and English plays the role of link language. But, the second language learners have been learning English language since their primary and still they are unable to communicate in English. There are many reasons for not able to use English or communicate in English. The present paper tries to discuss the factors and problems that hinder the teaching and learning process.

FACTORS THOSE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING PROCESS:

It has been observed that the most of the schools and colleges have been using the Grammar Translation Method to teach the Second Language. Grammar Translation Method gives importance to rote learning, memorization, accuracy and reading worthy text. Traditional methods emphasize more on form rather than function, accuracy rather than fluency. "High priority is attached to meticulous standards of accuracy". (A.P.R. Howatt, 1985). Consequently, the learners even being loaded with all the ideas they fail to perform in the second language.

Another reason is that the students do not get much exposure to English language. Though the students are good at English grammar, they fail to communicate in real life communication. There are many schools who have been using traditional teaching and learning methods and approaches. Most of the parents are over conscious and give importance to the rote learning and numbers in exams. There are many learners who have been getting good marks but they don't know the language very well. They cannot communicate, use language.

There are learners who wish to learn English but they are not being motivated by their teachers and parents. In most of the cases, their teachers are not trained well. Their knowledge is not up to the mark. Then how can they give their learners good knowledge? The major problem of the learners that they don't get facilities in rural area to learn language. The rural area has main major problem of electricity. Nowadays, most of the knowledge available on the internet, social media application like YouTube, Google etc. Plenty of websites gives or teaches language. But, the learners from the rural area do not get much exposure to it. Their school does not have computer, internet connection. In some cases, schools have these equipments but there is no electricity. In some cases, there is electricity, but the teachers and learners are not interested to learn it, use it. The teachers are not motivated and the learners are not motivated by their teachers. So, these factors affect the English language teaching and learning process.

One more factor that affect the teaching and learning process is that the transport system. In rural area, the learners live in the field area, away from the village, they live in the farm. There is no any vehicle to take them to the school. There is no any good road either. So, many of the learners are not able to attend the class,

or go to school. As a result of which, they lost their interest in learning language. The schools have been using old syllabus which is not relevant to the current scenario. The present needs of the society have not been fulfilled by the syllabus. The spoken aspect of the communication is neglected. Writing skill is only given importance. Not only this, the teachers have to teach bulky syllabus and in addition to this, they have to do other works other than teaching. So, they are very busy as a result of which the learners are being automatically neglected. The learners are being taught only for exam purpose. The teacher does not teach more than that. The socio-cultural and financial background of the learners of the rural areas matters a lot when it comes to learning and teaching of English language. Most of the parents are farmers or working in others farms. Their economical condition is weak. The parents are hardly literate. Many of the learners go for the work in hotels or in the farm for money. So, there is very less awareness of education. As a result of which learners do not get much exposure to the language and get needed facilities and equipment.

Almost most of the schools have been teaching English language in their mother tongue. The teachers use bilingual method because of which the learners feel comfortable using their mother tongue instead English. The learners are being taught English as a content subject not a skill subject. They are expected to recite the rules, recite the text and copy them into their examination. Most of the classes are teacher centric not a learner centric. The learners hardly get a chance to communicate, discuss the topic in the class. As a result of which the learners become shy. Many learners from the rural areas have lack of learning resources. The overcrowded classes are the major factor for the learning English language in the rural area. Because, the teachers have to teach the whole syllabus, take attendance, etc. in a very limited time. So they don't give importance to feedback or assessment seriously. They only teach and move on to next class or topic.

The major problem is that the learners are not being motivated. They don't have awareness for learning English language. They don't want to learn English. They don't know the importance, its value in their day to day life. Their attitude towards English is very negative. The learners have fear about English in their mind. On the other hand, there are some teachers who are also not well trained and competent in their language. They don't have their library. They themselves do not know the language well. They how can they teach their students effectively?

NEED OF THE HOUR:

As you know English is universally acknowledged and accepted as an international Language in the 21st century. The English language has got inevitable place in the lives of people who desire to reach their careers anywhere in the world. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the teacher to tackle this situation very neatly and motivate the learners to learn language. Though there are these factors those affect the teaching and learning process, it is the teacher who only can handle the situation. Because he/she is the boss of the class and owner of the class and the learners listens to their teacher very well than their parents.

CONCLUSION:

As we know, learning a language is a skill subject not a content subject. A skill is mastered by practicing it, by using it. If you want to learn swimming, you cannot learn it only by reading books on How to swim. For this you yourselves have to practice it, experiment it, use it and only then you can learn swimming. In the same way, if you want to learn new language or second language you have to use it, practice it. So, it is the teachers' responsibility to give plenty of opportunities to their learners to learn language. Therefore, for successful learning and teaching environment, the teacher, parents, society, government, and learners all should be motivated.

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