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ENGLISH FOR EMPLOYABILITY

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ABSTRACT

English language serves as a tool for many opportunities that waits for the youngsters with zeal. In order to choose a career and become successful in that path, the mastery and flair for the language is essential. Communication not only means the fluency, in terms of rate of speed, but also in the fluency in the vocabulary. If there is a lack in the English proficiency, in spite of the technical qualification, the candidate will be unable to express the nuances in the particular field. "Global English" in a sociolinguistic context refers almost literally to the use of English as a global language. English language is widely handled in the fields such as media, foreign language teaching, business etc. English is also hugely important as an international language and plays an important part even in countries where the UK has historically had little influence. It has become clear in recent years through empirical studies conducted by language testers and others; language knowledge is multi-componential. The term communicative competence has been invoked for nearly three decades now to encompass the notion that language competence involves more than the narrowed linguistic competence. The first part of the paper deals with the importance of English language and its contribution in one's career growth. The second part of the paper will discuss in detail about the part the language plays in the competitive exams.

KEY WORDS:

Importance of English, Globalization, Employability, Competitive exams

INTRODUCTION

English is easy to speak 'badly', but difficult to master- Wrenn

English language is spoken widely all over the world. This language is still popular because of its extraordinary receptive and adaptable heterogeneousness. Earlier when the Anglo-Saxons conquered England in the fifth and sixth century, the language retained its originality and nativity, now it is the

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most mixed of all language, it is because this language never hesitates to accept words and increase its granary of words. Earlier there were many dialects- a Midland English, East Midland English, a Northern English, and a Southern English. Chaucer popularized East Midland English through his works. English belongs to the Indo-European family of languages, the language originated in southern Europe near the Asian border; spread itself both east and west. English beginning with Anglo-Saxon or old English developed many qualities of sound and syntax which differentiate it from the Germanic language. The changes in the Pronunciation, Vocabulary, and Inflections started to happen after 1100.

English language is a tool for many opportunities that awaits the younger generation. In India it is mandatory to have proficiency over the language in order to retain a stability throughout the career, Sustainability in a job is marked by the mastery in the English language. Communication not only means the fluency, in terms of rate of speed, but also in the fluency in the vocabulary. If there is a lack in the English dexterity, in spite of the technical qualification, the candidate will be unable to express the nuances in the particular field and chances likely to lose opportunities widely. People who can articulate their thoughts well when talking to peers and experts are good communicators. Good English isn't, strictly speaking, correct usage of grammar, or great vocabulary, it is more about conversing without hindrance, building rapport, customer centricity, cultural sensitization, and empathizing.

Here are some good reasons for learning English language:

1. English is the most widely used language in the world and is the official language of 53 countries.
2. Learning English will help you to successfully communicate with the world.
3. While travelling to some other country, you can easily talk to people who know only English.
4. Speaking English is an asset for career growth.
5. English is spoken as the first language by 400 million people.
6. English is the language of computer, aviation, tourism, diplomacy. Another interesting thing is this is the language of internet- blogs, mails, and business communications happens in this language all over the world
7. Needn't say in India, English is the need of all the corporates, as they deal with clients all over the world. In academic institutions also the demand is too high, as they manufacture the generation to cater the needs of the concerns.

Education is a global and multipurpose social service, which rewards human resourcefulness and freedom. The cross cultural communication helps to bring in the confidence in a student and urges him to improve his skill in communication with various people and encourages him to handle complex concepts with ease. In a period of globalization and modernization English language learning enables in transferring the individuality of student into a personality . The English language is the global language for business and having a good command of English will definitely give one which is eyeing globally competitive business or career a clear edge.

GLOBALIZATION

Globalization today is the key reasons for the inter dependence of countries, organizations and individual on each other for mutual benefits. For any organization to perform well and grow, capable human resources with the required skill-set are essential. The necessary skill set for today is the expertise over English language. Professional, educational and businesses are adopting English more

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widely as the globalized economy is the combination of various geographies, cultures and people and English is the common medium for communication. "Global English" in a sociolinguistic context refers to the use of English as a global language. English dominates fields such as media, foreign language teaching, business etc. English is the language of pop-culture, of tourism, of market and trade, of the Internet. It is the language the young in the developing world, the world yearning for democracy feel interested and happy to learn; it is becoming a global language unlike any other in the History.

A language is a systematic means of communication by the use of sounds or conventional symbols. It is the code we all use to express ourselves and communicate to others. The latest and most advanced discoveries and inventions in various fields like Science, Technology, Entertainment, and Media are recorded in the English language for the instant popularity and convenience of the young generation. It has become clear in recent years through empirical studies conducted by language testers and others; language knowledge is multi-componential. The term communicative competence has been invoked for nearly three decades now to embrace the notion that language competence involves more than the narrowed linguistic competence.

ENGLISH IN INDIA

The Indian variety of English is uniquely distinct from American English, Canadian English and Australian English and other English spoken all over the world. It interacts with the variety of Indian languages and yet is not a regional language, it is an all-Indian language, so it is quite to have a marked Indian colour. Writers in India feel that their variety of English according to the dialects imbibed in various parts comes naturally to them. The student of modern India clearly understood the need of the time and they equip themselves to compete in this world. They have realized that English is necessary if they are to talk about their identity, their tradition, their literature, their society, economy, politics, so that the world outside will know what they are.

Thomas Babington Macaulay visited India and found that Indian unity is culminated with the importance given in their education system. Then, he wrote a report to the Queen of England insisting the importance of English language as the medium of instruction.

"a class of persons, Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste, in opinions, in morals and intellect".

His vision came true, because the younger generation not just speak English, they live, they breathe and even dream in this language. In order to infuse a culture to a nation/state one has to make the citizens to learn his/her language. Macaulay's ambition is evident with the amount of importance we give to this language. Present generation speculates on the aspect that this language is needed for mobility and socio-economic development. The language gives opportunities for one's professional growth and economic advancement. In India interviews happen only in English, candidates with low proficiency is not considered even if they excel in the technical expertise. The candidates appearing for the job interviews initially take up their aptitude test, which tests their mastery in their discipline, the forthcoming sessions concentrate more on their communicative aspects.

The Paradigm shift in the Industry is reflected in the academic curriculum also. The universities decided to include soft skills in their curriculum (for both U.G, P.G) to make the students ready for the Industry. The syllabus focusses on the four major skills -LSRW. The students are evaluated based on their competency in the various activities conducted for them in their classes. These kinds of activities are helpful in their work center. The classroom challenges allow the students to nurture their oral

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communication, interpersonal skills and dexterity in writing.

Points to be noted in Oral and Written Communication

1. Companies evaluate a person's English speaking capabilities during the interview. Ability to speak fluent English will greatly increase the chances to become successful in an interview. Avoid the influence of mother tongue and regional language in between the interview session, which will give a negative impression to the interviewer.
2. In most of the competitive exams there is a separate section of English. A poor performance in English section in these exams decreases chances of selecting a candidate in the initial level itself.
3. Seminars, Presentations, Workshops are conducted in English, so it is mandatory for the students to hone their oral communication.
4. Avoid verbal crutches.
5. Take a toastmaster/ spoken English classes to improve your communication nerves.

Thus in brief it is very important to be efficient in English in order to succeed in the present competitive world.

A fluent speaking can help you evoke self-respect and self-confidence. Good command over the language has also opened up an entirely new industry in many developing countries today in the form of Business Process Outsourcing or BPO's. These companies employ people looking just at their command of the language. Academic qualifications are often entirely overlooked or considered as a secondary criterion. Some of the competitive exams which can be taken by the students to test their abilities are:

- ⊙ OET-OCCUPATIONAL ENGLISH TEST
- ⊙ IELTS-INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTING SYSTEMS
- ⊙ CEIBT-CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND TRADE(Whose first language is not English)
- ⊙ TOEFL-TEST OF ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE
- ⊙ EPA-ENGLISH FOR PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT
- ⊙ CET-COMMUNICATION FOR ENGINEERS AND TECHNOLOGISTS

Apart from this, British council conducts level/band exams to test the efficiency of written skills in a person. With their grading they offer different courses for the students. English is also used for more purpose than ever before. Everywhere it is at the leading edge of technological and scientific development, new thinking in Economics and Management, new literatures and Entertainment genres. These give rise to new vocabularies, grammatical forms and ways of speaking and writing. Nowhere is the effect of this expansion of English into new domains seen more clearly than in Communication on the Internet and the development of 'Net English'. The future of English will be more complex, more demanding of understanding and more challenging for the position of native-speaking countries that has hitherto been supposed. In today's corporate world more than technical knowledge Effective Communication is recognized. An individual can make strides in the Management ladder if he can speak English fluently.

The first major advantage of speaking in English is that an individual will achieve a global image and could easily communicate with personalities around the world. People from more than seventy five countries in this world use English as their official language. Therefore, one may easily widen career to

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foreign territories without any worries associated with communication. Good English can also be of great advantage not only for the career prospects even for maintaining a good social image. In addition, the internet binds up the world into a global village and therefore, one may not even predict where the dream job will leads us. In order to be the survival of the fittest, it is important to learn the nuances of the language and become an exponent in English language.

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