

## English For Empowerment

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### Abstract

This paper mainly accents on the needs to prepare students to empower their careers with flying colors. There is an increasing need for workers in different sectors; employability is becoming an emerging gadget among the common people and policy makers. The students who are ensured with good proficiency in English can be easily shined in the workplace. Language expertise essentially required for sustaining good careers and it is necessary at the time of campus recruitments. As people from different background, having a different mother tongue come to work together, the only contrivance for communicating with themselves is the common language 'English'. Thus, the English language affords a way to survive in this global village across various international scenarios. As an engineering graduate, their skills must satisfy all the requirements of the MNCs.

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### 1. Introduction

Every human beings under the sky wishes to be self-dependent. From the day of birth, a child depends on their parents for good education, and other basic requirements until its completion of studies. After their studies, they need a good job to fulfill all these requirements. When a question "What is needed for getting a good job?" arises, the answer is nothing other than soft skills. In general, much priority is given to the development of communication skills than other technical knowledge. There is a fact that our training modules itself does not support one person to get recruited. So let us discuss few points regarding how English language helps one person to enrich their employability skills and empower them in this cosmos.

### 2. Definition For Employability

Employability skills are also called as 'career management skills'. "Employability is a multi-faceted characteristic of a person, a set of skills, knowledge and personal attributes that make an individual more likely to secure and be successful in their chosen occupation(s) to the benefit of themselves, the workforce, the community and the economy." (HEA, 2012, PDF). (Yorke 2006). Employability skills also embrace certain personal aspects such as self-confidence, self-control, inter and intra personal skills, honesty, integrity, decision making skills, problem solving skills, reliability, adaptability, flexibility, willingness to learn, stress lenience, time organization,

taking initiatives etc. Employability skills makes an individual to gain employment and for getting success in their preferred livelihood.

### **3. Spread of English Language**

Dr. Samuel Johnson said that “Language is the dress of thought”. Communication has become a vivacious fragment in our life. In this globalized world, English is being used as the intuitive language for more than 300 million people around the world. Each and every country adjoining the world have different communities, those people speak many languages. But the only language which is used by the people all over the world is “English language”. It indirectly diminishes the gap between the rich and the poor. Therefore, I could also say that it is the “language of integrity”.

Every citizen of a country has the right to use their language. It has extended an astonishing success in almost all fields due to their extent of vocabulary and the stream of fluency. English is the warehouse of political and communal acquaintance. One of the most important features of this language is “Voice Modulation”. For enhancing one’s employability or for being an effective communicator certain steps to be done-

- a) Clearance in concepts and arguments.
- b) Rational organization of ideas.
- c) Enhancing vocabulary.
- d) Using appropriate facial expressions and gestures.

### **4. Need For Lingua Franca**

English language is sundry in nature. It is a prevalent influencing factor causing renovation of social status across the world, and therefore it is referred to as “lingua Franca”. For developing the friendly relationship with our colleagues and also for nourishing our knowledge in writing letters, reports and e-mail it is essential. It is inevitable to cope up with the prerequisite of a company. According to the “Aspiring Minds” National employability report 2011, the IT sector has low employability due to lack of system programming and soft skills. Out of 100 engineers only 9 are employable. This is becoming a greater issue in the IT field. The person with good soft skills and also good technical skills has more scope to get campus recruitments.

### **5. Role Of Different Sectors In Developing Employability Skills**

The experts and representatives of MNCs should join hands with the institutions to promote quality education by conducting many interactive sessions to develop their soft skills.

Things to be done:

- a. Developing interview skills.
- b. Improving presentation skills.
- c. Conducting role plays, debates, situational phrases, extempore.
- d. Evolving knowledge in reporting and business writing.
- e. Emerging interpersonal and intrapersonal skills.
- f. Steering group discussions, just a minute etc.

## 6. Soft Skills For Success

The corporate world anticipates the students to work in the workplace for those imparted with good soft skills and managerial skills. The recruiters in those companies expect that the employee should be well familiar with not only the subject knowledge, but also they must be capable to deliver their knowledge via soft skills. Soft skills are nothing but the group of language competency, personality traits, social graces, optimism and so on. It also includes problem-solving skills, communication, and teamwork. For the accomplishment of an organization, the role of individual contribution with the help of soft skills is necessary. Nowadays, many final year students are struggling a lot in an interview to get recruited. The reason behind this problem is the lack of English knowledge. Thus soft skills prove to be one of the reasons behind successful career.

## 7. Role of English In Socio-Economic Development

English language is used as a contrivance in empowering students for social mobility and economic development. In the new age of globalization, English language is the key factor for gaining social prestige, getting good jobs. Though English language is not the native language for Indians, it is accepted as the global language as it is becoming a language of opportunity and also it gratifies all our economic needs. It is used as a common language in almost many fields such as business, education, travel, jobs and most prominently in economic development. English language is inseparable from modern technology, media and money power. Here money empowers outlooks for the economic development or earning power.

With the aggregate knowledge of English as the second language in all over the world, knowledge in English is pivotal to social and economic interaction. Approximately, In India the percentage of English speakers is around 0.23%, i.e. 2, 30,000 people are using the English language. For a sustainable development of a country, there must be the better number of employed people. Thus, for the employability knowledge in soft skills is essential. The intellectual and skillful citizens increase developmental opportunities which have a great impact on the world economy and job opportunities.

## 8. Methods of Imparting English Knowledge

Some modernized methodologies such as cooperative learning, tasks and participatory approaches helps excelling in group discussions, analytic skills. With the advent of new English language laboratories with latest software we can impart effective communication skills to the students. Out of two lakhs engineers per year, only a few got recruited because the reason for non-employability is their inefficiency in the competence concerning English and communication skills. That's why soft skills are referred to as the "life skills" which includes:

- a. Analytical skills.
- b. Problem solving skills.
- c. Logical and coherence competence.
- d. Higher order presentation skills.
- e. Group discussions.

These skills are very much interrelated to each other. With the proper training in an integrated and holistic manner, the students can acquire thorough knowledge about the soft skills. These skills are not practically taught in the classroom but can be taught in the laboratory using audio-visual equipment and the software available for learning such skills.

### **9. Development of English Language Through Internet**

Development of English language in fresh graduates is becoming a part of their career in this competitive corporate world. One of the potentially powerful resources for teaching English is the “Internet”. Internet facilities investigate innovative ideas in the current trend with the help of English laboratories, and especially with e-learning aids. Online teaching is vastly expanding and it will soon replace the traditional method of teaching and learning. Though the usage of internet in classrooms is limited, there is a fact that, millions of people worldwide are internet subscribers. There are lakhs and lakhs of internet sources such as a vocabulary builder; online tests, etc. are available which nourish our skills. There is an opportunity for students by using Information and Communication Technologies. Thus Internet sources help them to learn grammar, vocabulary which is an indispensable aid in language acquisition.

### **10. Difficulties In Imparting English Language**

In school levels, English language is thought for general purpose, i.e., English for General purpose (EGP) and it can also think for academic purposes i.e., English for Academic Purposes (EAP). There are not much care was taken at the school level to use language appropriately. These factors led us to some difficulties in conveying correct usage of the English language to the students. These difficulties are mentioned below:

- a) Students from rural background do not know Basic English language.
- b) Lack of regular practice to get fluency.
- c) No proper guidance from parents regarding language learning.
- d) Application oriented language is not taught so they are not practiced by the students.

### **11. English and Entrepreneurship Education**

Entrepreneurial education is the method of giving each individual the ability to recognize the commercial opportunities and insight, self- esteem, knowledge and skills to act on them. It mainly focuses on the techniques such as management skills, marketing trend, information system and financial. These processes need English knowledge of an individual. The person with good soft skills are provided with many employment opportunities. Thus English skills are needed for establishing entrepreneurship programs. It indirectly implies that the speech dialects and accent are much related to the employability skills.

### **12. Sustainable Employability Skills**

A fresh graduate should grow fully in all aspects which exist for acquiring the skills to survive and sustain in an employment in this competitive world. Also, they must be aware of the future expectations of the employer thereby being ready to accept and able to perform well. Many surveys reveal that our country is facing a large gap in the skills development. Due to the lack of sufficient skills, the economic growth is becoming down and down.

As English is becoming the global language in communication, business, science, technology and industry, it plays a vital role in gaining job opportunities. As there is a lack of linguistic proficiency, poor communicative and personality skills it becomes very difficult for the young graduates to express their thoughts in an effective manner. There are certain skills required for the sustainable employability skills of an individual. It includes professional knowledge, occupational ability, management, innovation, cooperation, learning and expression analysis.

### **13. View of Industry In Relationship Of English And Employability**

According to Vice Chairman of Cognizant Technology Solutions, Narayanan and Chairman of the NASSCOM, “Communication and soft skills and the ability to learn on their own and work teams are very important for those who join the industry”. In view of Infosys, “Most students are not industry ready because they lack communication skills. Many of the employers from the industries join hands with the universities and colleges to teach these courses. But many colleges do not offer these courses due to certain constraints.

### **14. Industrial Needs Of An Employee**

Each and every industry has a certain kind of expectations that the employee should fulfil. The most common needs are discussed below:

- a) Effective Communication skills.
- b) Positive Attitude.
- c) Self-confidence.
- d) Adaptability/Flexibility.
- e) Being a Team player.
- f) Ability to adapt to diverse situations.
- g) Time management abilities.
- h) Problem solving and decision making ability.
- i) Strong work ethic and able to work well even under pressure.
- j) LSRW skills.

### **15. Conclusion**

There is a nice saying by John F. Kennedy, “Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction.” This saying implies that though there are many methods to enrich the knowledge of young graduates, is the responsibility of the students in utilizing these sources in an effective manner. Undertake soft skills training programs organized by institutions seriously and improve their interactive skill. There are always more and more job opportunities available for the fresher; the only thing is that the person with good skills and attitude will be able to get jobs. “Nothing in this milieu is impossible”, practice regularly then, success will be in our hands

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