



Rationale of English and Soft skills for Students of Higher Education

P.Athahar

Abstract

English- a signature language of instruction and Language- A tool of communication got transcended civilization and culture across the universe. When the language is foreign it becomes indispensable for effective learning and for better expression. Way back since independence Indian subcontinent has been craving to master English language as it emerged as not just the language of class room but the language of opportunities. Students are countering many forms of receptive difficulties nevertheless they are professional learners and these complications are compounded at professional level. Hence this paper tries to take an insight in to the problems being faced by students in professional colleges. It is an urgent requirement to understand this as a basic issue on part of teacher educators to make students feel that English language is as easy as any other language to grab opportunities in globalized economy.

The present discussion focusses on English language that has seen its greater importance as a medium of instruction in analyzing and interpreting sentences of any other technical subject for better results technological scenario and to perform in the affirmative. Many surveys and findings show that despite there are sources inordinately, both teachers and students are not satisfied so that the students are ready for exposure. It is a smooth trial to reach out to the students by successfully encountering delivery problems regarding content, language gaps and communication barriers.

Key words: Signature language-language of opportunities-problems of professional learners-ready for exposure.

Introduction

English language is vital and an associate linking language that helps developing skills in any other subject. Contrast to general understanding, though the students are natives of English, the employers of respective places warned that young people need to improve these skills.

Employers have been complaining about lack of soft skills among graduates which is directly proportional to growth graph of any organization. Graduates from multicultural environment literally face problems during their execution. They are missed with predominantly communication skills that play a major role in the present scenario. The lack of these life skills does not fetch desirable results though they are given with additional knowledge of business. Since the world has shrunk in to a global village, the problem does not confined to a particular region but it is connected to every country. It is a linking activity that spread like opium. Due to the emergence of social networking, knowledge has scattered around the web and the candidate finds enough space to develop himself.

Understanding Soft Skills

A better and a genuine understanding is necessary before going in to debating. It is not the path of roses to perceive "what actually mean by soft skills?" Because when we speak about soft skills, there is no barrier for its understanding. Because, different contexts deliver different perceptions. The etiquette, the behavior and manner are closely related to each other and therefore have lot of impact on English communication skills too. English language I itself a self-motivated and self-organized language. When a student has good command in English language, he will be able to get good understanding of soft skills.

Sometimes, the feel of definiteness to learn a language for promotional activities make students to be creative in getting the language according to the needs. At the same time when it is felt that something is not mandatory, students will lose the thread. On the top, the student should recognize the importance of soft skills and its utilization aptly. We may have loads of material in the form of books, journals and articles but live understanding for implementation is possible only through perception and self-approach.

Different areas of soft skills

- Communication skills
- Critical and structured thinking
- Problem solving skills
- Creativity
- Negotiating skills
- Time management
- Conflict management
- Sociability
- Empathy

The above said examples are noteworthy and give lot of scope to know how wide the area of soft skills for better results.

Communication skills: In fact it is the heart area of soft skills and both are inter related. Basic English grammar is a necessary aspect that works for enhancing English language skills besides sentence formation, structural arrangement. When a student is confident about his language has the ability to communicate with others with ease and comfort. This comfort enable him to follow the required soft skills without much difficulty. However, vocabulary plays major role having all these things fulfilled.

Critical and structured thinking: Critical approach to any reason is inevitable. Thinking critically is an intellectual process and it depends on soft skills a particular student exposes. It is a disciplined process of actively and skillfully managed.

Problem solving skills: Team work and cooperation together work for solving a problem or identifying solution for a task. Making a team in which one can work with ease is a kind of soft skill. This will fetch desirable results for successful career.

Creativity: It's an additional qualification that allows the student's collaboration in a team. As team work is already a part of soft skills creativity is also an area that takes focus to.

Negotiating skills: It is larger area that covers soft skills. The more a person has the ability to put the leg in to others shows, he is therefore said to be exhibiting good soft skills. Because negotiation is what exactly means showing intelligence in dealing with others.

Time management: It is also a soft skill that nurtures minds to see the things happen in the stipulated duration. In fact it is the most precious resource. Emerging with proper planning and implementing it with conscious control is the required soft skill here.

Conflict management: While working in a group or team conquering over conflicts is a massive subject to understand. It is a kind of management where we take precautions to limiting the negative aspects of conflict and increasing the positive aspects of the same. The main reason of conflict management is to put oneself in to learning and group outcomes, including effectiveness or performance in organizational setting

Sociability: To seek out an opportunity to enhance relations with others social contacts are as necessary as anything as it is. It is a personality trait indeed that builds the ability to soften the conversation and hence it is a friend of soft skills. The person who has the knowledge of soft skills can easily find way to establish good social relationship with others.

Empathy: Perhaps it is the need of the hour as it encompasses relationships of employees and cherish with team work at a work place. Psychologically, employees do need imaginative capacity so that they understand in affirmative. So, it is a soft skill simply to say the ability to fit ones leg in to others shows.

There are several papers presented on the significance of soft skills for graduates. However it differs from teacher to teacher because they have to treat the students from different back grounds. English is a non-mother tongue language and commands attention in learning. But at the same time students have to understand that they may have to face pedagogical and psychological barriers.

Issues of Teaching English for Heterogeneous Group of Students

A sample judgmental process was conducted for students. The following are the interesting methodical issues came across.

Way of thinking

Pronunciation

Body language

Behavior

Attitude

Keeping all the above aspects in view, the teacher needs to change our methodology of teaching in the class rooms of higher education. As students are heterogenous, they feel different to each other and will not be ready to share in the class room. Family background is also a constraint for their different thinking. Way of thinking should be of high priority which includes soft skills management. Making oneself strong and commanding approval for the thoughts from others is no far from acquiring soft skills. Pronunciation includes putting proposals politely and getting reachable to everyone. Students should be cultivated with right pronunciation that will create necessary agreement with the perspective. Body language along with behavior is yet an important issue to understand and with the help of which, all most all the obligations could be fulfilled. Attitude is the biggest barrier on part of students while learning English exclusively when they belong to heterogeneous group. Counselling will help the teacher at the most to perceive a student to prepare task according to the student's need.

However, it is mandatory to retrieve at a great length that the teacher's role in positive approach towards a student is indispensable at any level of teaching. Hence it is a deal between a teacher and a student for proper understanding either in imparting the skills or in acquiring skills.

Notes Cited

1. NAWA *Journal of Language and Communication*, June 2008
2. The Ace of Soft skills, Gopaldaswamy Ramesh & Madhavan Ramesh, Pearson Publications, 2013
3. Personality Development and Soft Skills, Barun K. Mitra, Oxford University Press, 2014
4. Communication Skills, Sanjay Kumar & Pushp Latha, Oxford University Press, 2014