

# IMPACT OF SCHOOLING ON THE COMMUNICATION SKILLS OF ENGINEERING GRADUATES AROUND PUDUCHERRY

M.A. ISHRATH JAHAN, DR.N.O.NELLAIYAPPAN

## I INTRODUCTION

South Asia has vast historical and traditional association with India. It's diverse cultural heritage, shaped by people speaking several dozen languages. Despite these varieties we could certainly see interaction and communication among people, because they are comfortable with each other in common language 'English', which had introduced by Europeans during the British period. This common language strengthens the better understanding among one another and widely used elsewhere in India. Europeans imposed their cultural supremacy over the entire region of Indian sub-continent but we have been lucky to learn English from the British. They ruled and exploited us but at the same time they made us to reach international levels of opportunity through our knowledge of English. We have united among the diversity with that of common language.

Schools in India are the important mediator to impart such a wonderful common language to the people. It aims to expand the quality of education to the globally accepted one, by expanding the quality of English language teaching to the students from different linguistic background of the country. This paper is a result of the personal knowledge through experience of difficulties faced by the students of engineering from different schools around Puducherry in their communicative competency in English which makes a tremendous impact on their employment. The purpose of this study is to empower the students of engineering with the language and life skills they need to carry out their career goals.

## II LANGUAGES IN PONDICHERRY

Pondicherry officially called Puducherry, is one of the important Union Territories of India. This territory is located on the south eastern coastal region of the country. With its capital city based at Puducherry this Union Territory covers a total area of 492 Sq.Kms. Since the place was a French Colony in the earlier days and language of French as well as English is known language to many of the locals. Following are some of the major official languages of Pondicherry.

Tamil Language – 89 %

Malayalam Language – 3.8 %

Telugu Language – 2.9 %

French language – 1 %

In recent years Hindi Language also emerged as one of the prominent language of the native population. Therefore Pondicherry has the varied cultural and social life which reflects through its different languages of local inhabitants.

### **III ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN PONDICHERRY SCHOOLS**

Pondicherry recognizes many languages as its state language. Most of the schools of the Union Territory impart education in the vernacular language of Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam. However some of the convent schools teach most of the subjects in English. English is turned out to be the most acceptable and common form of language while interacting in between themselves or with any other state or Union Territory in Indian Republic. English for specific purposes has been inculcated in the minds of academicians in Puducherry, hence they demand that teaching of English should be treated as a skill subject rather than as a mere subject. Language teachers of Puducherry schools intended that their teaching should facilitate the students to learn English and it should expose the students to use the language effectively.

### **IV IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH FOR ENGINEERS**

The world is shrinking into a global village and therefore communication skills in English have emerged as the major means of empowerment and human resource development. Communication skills involve more than mastery of grammar and vocabulary. Many of our engineers and software professionals fail to make an impact on the global market mainly because they lack the required communication competency. It cannot be denied that, in the present global scenario English has attained an internal status and as such proficiency in English language and its current usage has become essential. Our engineers' curricula can hardly afford to ignore the importance of English in academic and professional fields, if they aim at both professional excellence and acumen.

## **V IMPACT OF SCHOOLING ON THE COMMUNICATION SKILLS OF ENGINEERING STUDENTS IN PUDUCHERRY**

The knowledge gained at school level serves as a foundation stone on which the bricks of higher studies / career can be laid. It's true in case of professional studies especially engineering studies around Pondicherry. The importance of schooling has been realized by every parent of Pondicherry whom they are aspiring a bright career for their children. Moreover they are not mean the schooling just to the school which going through certain textbooks, but the ever increasing number of parent who clamour for gaining all round development of their child, are flock to the mom & pop schools that enwraps modern schooling.

The first & predominant role of modern schooling is imparting spoken language to their children. Most of the findings about language studies in Pondicherry reveal that students from public schools have a better exposure to communication skills compared to their state government school counterparts, and the students from leading private schools and missionary schools have a remarkable exposure to communication skills compared to other schools in Pondicherry. The complete exposure on communication skills will be reflected on their professional studies and fructify in their employability at the end.

The 14 self-financed and government funded engineering colleges affiliated to Pondicherry University are having students with mixed abilities and varied levels of language proficiency. The students from well reputed schools have not been toiled very much by the engineering colleges in providing communication training for their placement. On the contrary the students who have had their school education in a non-English medium set up from remote areas of Pondicherry and also who did not have proper exposure to English even though they are from an English medium school find it very difficult to cope up with their peers. Though these students have scientific and technical knowledge, more scores in school finals have been sacked by the IT companies because of their poor English Communication Skills.

Hence a lot of responsibility is laid on the shoulders of the teachers of language in schools around Pondicherry who have to gear up for the situation and successfully strive to inculcate communicative competence in their students, and prepare them for life, by making their classes interesting and learning fruitful. Similarly the teachers of language in engineering colleges of Pondicherry should have a mission to provide sufficient occasions for developing all the four language skills of English to their beloved students.

## V CONCLUSION

English teaching in Pondicherry schools has its own charms and characters that need to be further developed. I hope that in the future other researches will investigate the innovative methods of teaching and learning English in schools which paves way for their future employability. The future schools of Pondicherry will provide ample opportunities for students to build awareness and practice the language in real life scenario. It will develop student's self-confidence to survive and succeed in professional and social encounter within an English speaking global community.

### References:

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