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THE ROLE OF TEACHER IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMMUNICATION SKILLS LABORATORY

PROF. S. R. THAKARE

Assistant Professor, I. B. S. S. College of Amravati.

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Abstract: In the era of Information technology, where the world is increasingly becoming a global village, and English is becoming a global language, it is expected from everyone to have Effective Communication Skills, especially from Professional students. Keeping the huge importance of English language in the mind, many universities have introduced ELCS laboratories for professional courses to the extent possible. The language laboratory plays an important role in the language learning process which focuses on student-centered learning. The main objective of the English lab is to prepare the students for campus recruitment and making the students to enhance their LSRW skills. The teacher's role is that of a facilitator of learning. By being creative, innovative, and designing many useful activities the teacher of English will undoubtedly motivate and encourage the students to learn English language in an easy manner. The Role of English teachers also includes – removing the fear of speaking in English and assisting students in developing more positive perceptions of communication activities. The present paper of mine discusses in detail the active role of English teacher as a motivator, diagnostician, counsellor, soft skills trainer.

Keywords: The English Language teacher, Communication skills, Professional students, Language laboratory

Corresponding Author: PROF. S. R. THAKARE



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INTRODUCTION

Developing communication skills has become the very urgent need of the hour especially for professional students of all courses. All the reputed companies expect a certain important skills from the aspirants who are willing to work in their companies and out of those skills – Communications skills are viewed very important. The English Language Teacher should play a significant role in developing these skills among his professional students' community in the classrooms and in laboratories. Unless and otherwise he/she is totally committed, dedicated and sincere to his job or duty, it will be highly difficult to enhance all the four sub skills of communication skills namely – listening, speaking, reading and writing.

The Important Role of English Language Teacher:-

As mentioned earlier, the role of English Language teacher in Communication Skills Laboratory is a pivotal and crucial one. The faculty members of English language need to have a wide-ranging idea about the language needs of his learners. He/she has to keep the following mentioned points in his/her mind during the stay in English laboratories while teaching English.

- ❖ Firstly, all the English Language teaching faculty members should try their level best to be friendly with the students in the lab so that they will freely interact and express their problems in learning and improving English language.
- ❖ After having interacted with the students the English language teacher should analyse what necessary steps need to be taken to strengthen Communication Skills among his students.
- ❖ The English language teacher needs to play multi roles such as – motivator, counsellor, care taker, guide, diagnostician and above all Communication and Soft Skills trainer.
- ❖ In my vast experience of teaching English in different institutions and colleges for over the period of 10 years, it is noticed that majority of the students do have fear of speaking and writing English. So, the English language teacher should encourage his/her students to overcome their fear towards English language by counselling and motivating them.
- ❖ The English language teacher should make his/her students comfortable with the language they have to speak and write.
- ❖ The language teachers should take firm decision that they must interact with the students in English language not only in the classrooms but also inside of the college premises. It should be strictly implemented and followed.
- ❖ Instead of concentrating much only on teaching, the English Language teacher should try to involve the students in various sessions such as – Debates, JAM Sessions, Group Discussions,

Role Plays etc., in order to strengthen his/her students 'confidence levels. By successfully participating in these events regularly, a student can get rid of his/her fear gradually and can become a good communicator in course of time.

- ❖ One of the important aspects should be taken into consideration by the teacher of English is – the shy learners and slow learners need to be identified time-to-time and they must be given special counselling by spending some considerable time in each of the English laboratories.
- ❖ As Francis Bacon rightly pointed out – “Reading makes a man complete”. So the English Language teacher must encourage his/her students to cultivate the habit of reading English newspapers, magazines, short stories and novels etc. regularly
- ❖ It should not be forgotten by the teachers of English language that writing in English is rather difficult one when compared to speaking. So he/she ought to encourage the students to gain good command over the constructions and rules, regulations of English Grammar which is very much essential while drafting some piece of information in English.
- ❖ It is also an important duty of the English language teacher to create interest and enthusiasm among his/her students towards English language communication skills.
- The English language teacher has to enable his/her students to learn better pronunciation through stress on word accent, intonation and rhythm.
- Further, the teachers of English language should motivate his/her students to take effective participation in National level symposiums and workshops in different colleges across the country in order to gain more knowledge on the latest updates in the specialization of English language and communication.
- It goes without saying that one cannot become a good communicator unless one is a good listener. The teachers of English language should try to improve his/her students' listening skills in the language laboratories by giving some exercises. The students should be asked to listen MP3 audio files and later some questions may be posed by the teachers so as to check their understanding levels in listening of some information. With these sort of activities, a professional student will assuredly become an active listener.
- Students of English language laboratories have to be enthused to improve their active vocabulary by regular and systematic practices. The flow of communication of a student will not be getting affected while interacting with someone only if he/she knows more words in a language.

- To remain a successful English language teacher in the laboratory, he/she should always try to create a learning atmosphere. The language teachers must work very hard by following different innovative methods of teaching English with simple techniques.
- It is said that “Actions speak louder than words”. The English language teacher should also not forget the importance of non-verbal communication in our day-to-day life. So he/ she has to encourage his/her students to always use positive body language while listening or speaking to someone.
- As a teacher of English language one should have abundant patience and never lose balance if he/she is not getting the expected outcome from the students. By using different soft wares, teaching aids and with regular motivation, counselling the language teacher will be certainly succeeded.
- In addition to all these points, the English language teacher must also do one more thing in English language laboratories. By dividing the whole class into some small groups and asking them to engage in free talk on any topic which they like most. The exercise or activity makes them to shed their inhibitions towards English language speaking and they may become fluent speakers of English language.

CONCLUSION

Undoubtedly it is really a great challenging task for the English language teachers to develop his/her students' communication skills in the language laboratories. The teachers of English must possess more patience and work very hard with a commitment and dedication to procure the expected outcome from their students. The English language teacher must play multi roles namely – mentor, counsellor, motivator, facilitator, a friendly trainer, and diagnostician. By playing all these said roles he/she should try to develop his students Communication skills with rigorous training programmes and lots of practice work.

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