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Boosting Engineering Graduates' Employability Through Effective English Communication

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Abstract

In today's workplace, soft skills and communication abilities are prerequisites for employment, and language proficiency increases visibility and improves career prospects. English language proficiency, fluency, vocabulary, and the talent of oral or written narrative are essential for career and academic advancement. As a lingua franca and library language, English is an essential language in India, especially for engineers. It is crucial for academic success in engineering since it gives students access to a wealth of information, advanced technical content, and the ability to comprehend difficult ideas, take part in discussions, and do well on tests. Additionally, English provides a platform for communication and teamwork, enabling students to exchange ideas, work together on projects, and participate in scholarly conversations.

The students who are proficient in English are better equipped to collaborate with colleagues from different linguistic origins and express themselves clearly in professional situations. English is essential due to the worldwide nature of engineering employment; Indian graduates frequently work in multinational teams or in international settings. English proficiency improves employment opportunities and professional development by allowing individuals to communicate with co-workers, show their work, and participate in international projects.

Keywords: Prerequisite, Advancement, Proficiency, Lingua Franca, Crucial

Introduction

English is a worldwide language used extensively in the broad area of engineering. Gaining technical expertise, publishing research, and participating in academic activities including project writing, presentations, and discussions all require proficiency in English.

Better chances, acceptance, and recognition result from exposure to and use of the English language. Courses like Professional Communication or Communication Skills are skill-based and

value-added courses that are typically given by the Humanities and Social Sciences department for engineering students in order to instil and foster good communication ability among technical students. Technical students unintentionally recognize the importance of adapting their communication to promote employability during placements, even though their primary concentration is on their technical skills. Even though Indian students study English for about twelve years before enrolling in college, recruitment agencies find that students struggle to express themselves well, which prevents them from landing the suitable positions. Our teaching and learning approaches have some shortcomings that must be addressed. In order to close the gap between academics and industry, this article examines these gaps and investigates more recent approaches and tactics that may be helpful in achieving communicative proficiency in order to pursue better jobs. English proficiency is essential for both helping students understand difficult ideas and finding work after graduation. Co-founder and former Infosys CEO Nandan Nilekani stressed the value of communication abilities in fostering productive collaboration and career success.

Engineering students gain from learning English by:

1. Improving academic achievement
2. Making educational resources more accessible
3. Engaging in academic pursuits
4. Important for obtaining employment (many engineering positions demand proficient English)
5. Enhancing professional growth, networking, and teamwork to support career advancement.

A strong command of both written and oral communication is essential for economic activities, trade, and administration. Professionals such as engineers require proficiency in English communication in order to manage and collaborate with their teams, conduct talks, develop strategies, plan, execute, and present ideas, as well as conduct critical analysis. English undoubtedly plays a significant role in higher education and the management of both public and commercial businesses in the modern world. The majority of academic articles, journals, and engineering textbooks are published in English, making it the primary language used in scientific and technological literature. According to various experts, the necessity for engineering graduates to demonstrate competence in both technical and generic skills - including communication - has increased due to globalization. India is essential for obtaining high-ranking employment and good administrative positions.

In India, English has taken on a major role and is essential to change (Graddol, 2010). Unlike their mother tongue, Indian users of English must receive formal training because it is a foreign and non-native language. The majority of engineering students are proficient in their native tongue but hesitate when speaking in English. Placements and recruitments are hampered by this. During the hiring process, employers look for nonverbal abilities such as positive body language, paralinguistic elements, and communicative ability, fluency, and confidence. Engineering schools' humanities and social sciences departments offer courses that foster inner potential and facilitate capacity enhancement. In the current technological era, globalization and multiculturalism inevitably necessitate proficient English communication.

In addition to technical courses, engineering institutes teach professional communication and communication skills with the urgent need for job in mind. During placements, recruiters frequently lament that our educational system does not produce professionals who are prepared for the workforce and can adapt to changing circumstances. Unfortunately, many Indian engineering graduates struggle to write or speak English accurately and fluently. English is taught at the first-year level in the majority of engineering colleges in India, with the main goal being to develop students' speaking, listening, reading, and writing abilities. English is now the primary language used for communication

worldwide. English is now a suitable medium for communication due to the growth of global corporations and intercultural engagement.

Role of English Communication for better Employability:

1. English is the lingua franca for efficient coordination and communication among team members from various linguistic and cultural backgrounds, which is crucial in today's engineering industry.
2. Professionals in engineering, research, and technology now communicate mostly in English, which highlights the significance of engineers working with foreign colleagues.
3. Compared to their non-English speaking peers, fluent English speakers make substantially more money.
4. Regardless of the industry, recruiters place a high value on English proficiency.
5. Engineering students must demonstrate great English communication skills in order to pass the demanding recruitment processes. Improving English Communication Skills to Advance Engineering Careers.
6. The 2019 India Skills Report and the National Educational Policy both stress the need of using English effectively to keep one's employability.

In international engineering, engineers frequently collaborate with multinational teams or work on projects that span several nations. English makes it easier to communicate and comprehend and integrate many cultural viewpoints, which is essential for creative problem-solving. The technical proficiency is essential for engineering; proficient English communication is just as critical for professional progression.

To achieve academic excellence English helps students understand and remember the things that teachers teach. Effective communication, teamwork, and idea sharing are made possible by global language. For engineering students, communication abilities in English are essential in three ways:

Important when studying abroad (TOEFL/IELTS necessary)

1. To read books that adheres to international standards
2. To comprehend English-language technical papers and journals

To Maintain Employability: Clear communication boosts confidence in technical fields.

1. Increases employability by providing more international career options
2. Crucial for business dealings

For career advancement, maintain a professional demeanour at work.

1. Promotes solid interpersonal connections
2. Creates harmonious teams in multicultural and global workplaces
3. Essential for sustaining success and achieving success at work
4. Offers a plethora of options for professional development

In India, just 10% of engineering graduates are deemed employable, with communication skills playing a significant role. Therefore, English communication is essential for engineering employability. Here are some tried-and-true methods to get better:

Fundamental Techniques by Skill Area

1. Improve Listening Skills by watching English-language films, documentaries, and speeches about engineering-related topics.
2. Examine and discuss the speech sounds of native speakers.
3. Speaking, reading, and writing skills are all enhanced by listening.
4. Develop a Reading Habit Read classics, science fiction, and business writing in addition to academic works.
5. Using literature in the classroom: science fictions & plays
6. To increase comprehension, summarize or rewrite what you've read.
7. Keep a vocabulary notebook to record new terms.
8. Practice Speaking Every Day.
9. Talk to other students or native speakers on a regular basis.
10. Participate in online forums, language exchange programs, or discussion groups.
11. Engage in group conversations to boost confidence and get over anxiety.
12. Give up avoiding English and practice, even if you're hesitant.
13. Develop Your Vocabulary and Grammar
14. Learn prepositions, tenses, parts of speech, and frequently confused terms.
15. Acquire technical English terminology relevant to your field of engineering.
16. Concentrate on using the active voice to communicate clearly and succinctly.
17. Develop Your Writing Skills
18. Write essays, project reports, formal letters, and paragraphs.
19. To write coherently, master conjunctions, connectives, and punctuation.
20. To organize explanations, use discourse markers (first, thus, however).
- Develop Your Presentation Skills
21. Practice nonverbal clues, pauses, and body language.
22. Practice communicating concepts in a methodical manner to educate or convince
23. Take a video of yourself and evaluate your performance.
24. Acquire phonetic knowledge.
25. Learn English phonetics to ensure proper spelling and pronunciation.
26. Understand ability is improved by clear articulation.

English is the language that unites the majority in India, a multilingual nation. In India, it is a recognized form of formal communication. During the 19th century, colonization and the imposition of western education brought English to India. In order to develop an elite community that could serve as intermediaries for communication between the English and the Indian people, English education was required, according to Lord Macaulay's well-known educational minutes. In order to facilitate western education, schools and higher education institutions were established, leading to the development of English education. In India nowadays, proficiency in English is a prerequisite for high-level administrative employment. A strong command of both written and oral communication is

essential for economic activities, trade, and administration. Professionals such as engineers require proficiency in English communication in order to manage and collaborate with their teams, conduct talks, develop strategies, plan, execute, and present ideas, as well as conduct critical analysis. In present day context, English language no doubt plays a substantial role in higher education and administration of private and government organizations.

In India, English has taken on a major role and is essential to change (Graddol, 2010).

Unlike their mother tongue, Indian users of English must receive formal training because it is a foreign and non-native language. The majority of engineering students are proficient in their native tongue but falter when speaking in English. Placements and recruitments are hampered by this. During the hiring process, employers look for nonverbal abilities such positive body language, paralinguistic elements, and communicative ability, fluency, and confidence.

Engineering schools' humanities and social sciences departments offer courses that foster inner potential and facilitate capacity enhancement. Globalization and multiculturalism in today's technological era naturally demands the need for good English communication. In engineering intuitions, apart from technical courses subjects like professional communication and communication skills is taught keeping in mind the pressing requirements for employment during placements, recruiters frequently lament that our educational system does not produce professionals who are ready for the workforce and can adapt to changing circumstances.

Unfortunately, many Indian engineering graduates struggle to write and speak English accurately and fluently. English is taught at the first-year level in the majority of engineering colleges in India, with the main goal being to develop students' speaking, listening, reading, and writing abilities. Even after completing four years of professional training and earning a technical certification, an engineering graduate's ability to secure appropriate employment is still questionable. Lack of excellent communication skills is the main cause of this.

Access to top-notch education is made more accessible by MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning). They enable professionals and students to upskill, obtain academic credits, and greatly increase their employability by providing flexible, high-quality learning from prestigious universities at a low cost. The IITs and IISc collaborated to create NPTEL. By delivering their knowledgeable staff and meticulously planned courses straight to your screen, it fills the gap for students who are unable to get direct admission to these elite universities. These courses are completely free to enroll in and complete. If you decide to take a proctored, in-person exam to obtain a verified certificate, you simply have to pay a small cost. The material is created in accordance with the most recent industry standards. Having an IIT/IISc certification makes you stand out in the job market and verifies your knowledge. MOOCs, such as NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning), offer a variety of online courses that students can take. Engineering students can learn a lot from IIT faculty members' NPTEL courses, such as Soft Skills, Enhancing Soft Skills and Personality, Technical English, etc. These courses can be considered as assignment activity, credit course or add on course to encourage student participation. In their investigation, Gillani and Eynon (2014) concluded that massive open online courses (MOOCs) play an extremely important role in higher education with their empirical research that explores the realities of interacting and learning in such communication courses. In light of this, educational institutions should encourage students to enroll in NPTEL's personality development online courses, which will be beneficial to them all. Paul Spence's suggestion that English courses should include English communicative events in a syllabus to bridge the gap between the university and the workplace is supported by the results and tactics presented in this paper (Spence & Liu, 2013).

Therefore, the identified strategies would be useful in bridging the gap between industry and academia, as would appropriate encouragement and igniting interest among students and teachers.

Conclusion Diverse English learning will be made possible by the ways of teaching that have been identified. The aforementioned techniques would help students get the requisite command of the English language, opening doors to employment. In an Indian classroom with a diverse student body, the instructor must first recognize this variety and establish a platform to facilitate learning. To make the teaching-learning process effective, both the instructor and the student must be equally ready to try out novel language-learning techniques. The first step is to determine the learner's areas of weakness. Based on their exposure level, English can then be acquainted. It has been noted that the teaching-learning method used in first-year English classes needs to be completely redesigned, and many instructors need ESP (English for Specific Purposes) training in order to prepare engineering students for the workforce.

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