

UNITING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND OCCUPATIONAL SETTINGS IN TEACHING OF ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to highlight the need for bringing both educational institutions and occupational settings together in teaching of English for helping learners become successful. The learning outcomes of learners would be better if key concepts and its practice of subjects especially language are focused on both education and workplace settings. Learning specific skills by having practical activities based on study program improves learners' personality and helps them in transition in integrating themselves in social life after studies. Educational institutions along with their curriculum must also focus on critical thinking, communication skills, soft skills and reasoning skills which would be relevant to the workplace. The teaching of English is a complex issue since students come from backgrounds where varied native languages are spoken. There should be effective methods to deal with this linguistically diverse student population, to experience the beauty and sound of the English language to the students. When college and industry come together the results can be highly positive. This collaboration creates a more well-rounded education that satisfies both the demand for skilled employees and the need for knowledgeable citizens by integrating all the needed skills to it. Uniting educational institutions and occupational settings together helps learners develop strong skills that would enrich their performance and contribution at the workplace and achieve goals.

KEY WORDS

Education and workplace setting, life skills, transition, employment benefits, teaching methods, job-related contexts, training

INTRODUCTION

Language is a means of communication through a system of symbols. It is a necessary requirement in any society and connects man to man by way of greetings, inquiries, conversation, discussion and disagreement. Thus, having a broader scope language paves way for ideas to emerge and materialize through it. Learning English improves our career opportunities and gives us the skills necessary to progress both in personal and professional life. Additionally, it gives us the opportunity to travel or live in different countries. Speaking English opens up a range of new chances in industries like marketing, tourism, transportation, sales and banking. The learning outcomes of learners would be better if key concepts and its practice of subjects especially language are focused on both education and workplace settings. Teaching of English for occupational purposes refers to English in administration, medicine, law, business and vocational purposes for non professionals in work or pre work situations. Learning specific skills by having practical activities based on study program improves learners' personality and helps them in transition in integrating themselves in social life after studies.

ROLE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Education is an investment in the future of the family as its benefits extends beyond generations. They are better off socially and economically as it includes travel, health care and material investments. Educational institutions help to mould learners into an individual with self-discipline and analytical thinking as they play a crucial role in honing students to become successful in life. Students get into colleges in the hope of obtaining a degree and after their graduation is eager to put into practice all they have learnt. Later, they understand that the real life is entirely different. Though it helps them to get a bright future it is not sure if they really are prepared for the competitive world. Life skills along with their subject knowledge and adaptability are essential for them to survive in the real world.

Students have the right to be educated as well get industry-ready. It is certainly the responsibility of the educational institutions to teach and train them to use their potentials. Schools and colleges normally concentrate on the education of the students but at times are unable to prepare them for their life after graduation. Therefore, educational institutions must also focus on critical thinking, communication skills, soft skills and reasoning skills which would

be relevant to the workplace. Institutions in all the aspects should try to give students the basic skills and proficiencies to appropriate standards. It should widen their position as well as instill confidence in them. It should make them efficient employees who keep on learning and become pioneers in their fields. Students should never be educated just for qualifications but they should be educated to become better individuals of society. If this is done then the remaining follows it.

New innovations and technologies come up in this changing time. Schools and colleges should reconstruct graduate programs to prepare aspiring learners. The educational institutions should know how to use them in their classrooms to enrich the learning experience of the students. The lecture rooms should be equipped with the latest technology which is necessary for the students' training. The curriculum should constantly change depending on the needs of the workplace. It must include the activities, worksheets and knowledge necessary to produce students to be competitive in the workplace. The lessons should provide a chance to experience the real work settings. They should become highly skilled graduates having mastered the skills needed for the real-life situations. Thus, students who are well equipped with knowledge and skills can face the challenges of the world with confidence. Young people should be encouraged to complete their graduation and move to further higher education, training or work. Education and training should go hand-in-hand. When the learners are equipped with all the skills needed for the job, they are ensured with a higher income, better opportunities and employment benefits. This enables them for a fruitful career and rewarding life.

QUALITY EDUCATION

A Quality education is one that makes the learners become economically independent, productive and enhance individual as well as nation's growth. Their learning outcome must include knowledge, life skills and awareness on every aspect of well being to prosper. Quality education leads to empowerment by strengthening students, the communities, and nations and promotes world peace. It is a student-centered education to reach his complete potential. In spite of attending the school for several years, many learners cannot read or write well. So, the basic skills and knowledge incorporating necessary skills required for the future demand is essential in the classroom.

Career education prepares youth to move from college to employment successfully. Educationists, Career Practitioners and Employers of private and public sectors should come forward and discuss the importance of career education and come up with practical ideas and solutions to strengthen the community. This will enable to modify existing strategies, articulate principles for the future and provide high-level goals across educational and occupational settings. The industry-relevant training will provide pathway to students with a wider variety of options. Vocational education can be a part of school education which provides tangible workplace skills to enable students to enter a workplace as a trader like a mechanic, welder or an electrician. It is crucial to the students' success that they learn how to navigate and overcome personal challenges, and expand their social emotional skills to understand and work around issues they may face in future.

Soft skills or professional skills such as leadership, mentoring, project management, and conflict resolution are value-added skills that are becoming increasingly valuable to all employers, regardless of the type of industry they work in. It helps them to understand how we will fit in with their working environment and how we will perform as one of their employees. Good communication skills determine who gets the good job, retains it and gets the promotion. Also, in future students should communicate with clients by emails, tweets, audio and video conferencing in the job. Therefore, verbal and written communication should be emphasized while they are in schools or colleges.

ENHANCING THE TEACHING METHODS

The teaching of English is a complex issue since students come from backgrounds where varied native languages are spoken. There should be effective methods to deal with this linguistically diverse student population, to experience the beauty and sound of the English language to the students. In this context, success in the teaching of English largely depends on liberty to work out the prescribed syllabus in one's own way unlike any other subject. The advent of new technologies has given rise to enhanced teaching methods that ensures promising ways of active participation of students. The objective of teaching English in our country is to help students to attain practical command of English. In other words, students should be able to read, speak and write English effectively. As Namita Roy observes, "The aims of teaching

English include (A) Reception and (B) Expression. A language is taught to enable the learners to receive it so that they are able to express through it properly.” (15)

Students should be encouraged to read books and not just passages of it. Even if extracts are used, the passages should have fitting introductions to the books from which they are taken. Reading habits should be inculcated in students and the language teacher can take them to the library where the teacher talks and finds their interest on reading specific genres. If teaching of prose is compared to walking, then teaching of poetry can be compared to dancing. To help developing the appreciation of the poem it should be introduced to the learners in an appropriate manner. Biographical method can be followed by introducing the poet and his life sketch before beginning the poem. Then the poem is explained by giving the gist of the poem. Also, difficult words can be jotted on the blackboard. Then comes the interactive part where the teacher draws out the whole poem by skilful questioning which involves an active participation of the pupils. Workshops can be conducted to teach students in appreciating the poems. These workshops will go a long way and make learners appreciate the poems as well as the beauties of the sounds and words of the language.

Writing should be started only after word recognition passages and learners should be asked to write only those vocabulary items and structures which he practiced orally or read in those word recognizing passages. Thus, with the familiarity of the words and structures he is able to devote his complete attention to write them. Oral composition should be paid more attention in higher classes. Later, this can be the best preparation for continuous written composition. In order to make the entire language teaching learning process lively, comprehensible and interesting, the teachers need to take the help of the blackboard, pictures, flashcards, charts, tape recorder, TV, newspaper and language laboratory.

When language is combined with recreation it becomes interesting. Language games involve all the basic language skills, create motivation, lower students' stress, and give language learners the opportunity for real communication. After the learners have made substantial progress in learning the language English Club can be organized as a part of the language teaching scheme. Along with teaching literature, students can be encouraged to talk about job

skills and qualifications. Job worksheets can have activities that focuses on jobs related to their specialization. As Keith (p31) observes,

Job	Skills and Qualifications you have to	Language Situations
Architectbe able to draw neatlyunderstand principles of engineering and sciencework to deadlinesreading plans and instructionsreading scientific journalsspeaking to builders and colleagueslistening to and speaking to clientswriting plans and instructions

As the material to be learnt already exists in the mind of the learners the teacher only aims to put him into real or imaginary situations, in which he will be made to think and express in a particular way. Students should be motivated rather than correcting their language to increase their effectiveness of speaking and writing. Like aptitude, motivation is considered as a significant element in classroom language learning. Michelle (p 335) suggests ten ways to liven up an English lesson in her *“Teaching English as a Foreign Language for Dummies”* : Bring in Real-world objects, Step outside the classroom, Browse the NET, Start a Project, Let the Students teach, Starting out with ‘Once upon a time’, Open up your life, Move around, Play a game and Get Musical.

A person from India working in US not only should possess technical skills but also should know how to deliver or express it in American English correctly or fluently. The language sessions should aim at comparing and contrasting and question forms in relating the language learning experience to the working experience. Job-related language skills enhance workplace performance when they communicate better in job-related contexts. Students can be asked generally how the classroom where they study is different from the place where people work. They can be made either in pairs or groups and made to analyze the learning and working environment. Learners can be encouraged to compare and contrast the size, shape, equipments, way of interaction, language used and time spent in both the environments. This enables them to understand both the situations simultaneously and think critically.

COLLEGE AND INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Academic and career goals are inextricably tied as one affects the other in many ways. College and Industry partnerships help learners meet these goals and preparing a highly skilled workforce to meet increasing global competition. Colleges play a unique role in preserving nation's competitiveness and economic opportunity as it serves as a foundation for setting career goals for learners. Educational institutions should inculcate creativity, technical knowledge and business acumen by providing both academic education and vocational training.

When college and industry come together the results can be highly positive. This collaboration creates a more well-rounded education that satisfies both the demand for skilled employees and the need for knowledgeable citizens by integrating all the needed skills to it. This envisions the chances of enhancing classroom learning with the real world content and offers work-based learning experiences. This is a focus towards value creation for the economy and society that yields better results in terms of relevant skills and knowledge. When this partnership is based on a solid foundation of mutual understanding, it transforms the missions and practices of both college and industry and fosters innovations and other beneficial positive outcomes.

Schools, colleges and workplaces should come together to help young people get both education and training and create a knowledgeable and skilled workforce. Vocational learning can be imparted to students as a way of preparing them for work. Schools and colleges should have trade training centers which enable the learners to become entrepreneurs. Students can have part time job along with their studies which would enhance their work experience which and also enable them to understand the employer's needs. The education system should fit the industries as the students enter them right after their degrees. Passing exams do not assure a good job and becoming an efficient employee whereas students with appropriate skills and knowledge only can enrich their lives.

CONCLUSION

Due to the prosperity of the global economy English has become a widely accepted international language in various professional areas like business and technology. All

organizations look for good leaders who have vision setting, motivating others, accountability and creating more leaders in the workplace. Apart from educational qualifications the employers look for skills in their employees. The professionals whether it is communicating with co-workers, clients, colleagues or higher officials should be able to speak English properly and clearly. Doctors, engineers, architects, IT employees, hotel staff or pilots they must be able to speak English at a professional level. The language, both spoken and written affects our ability to earn a good living, progress in a career, and even in enjoying good social contacts. Bringing both educational institutions and occupational settings together can do a lot in helping learners develop strong skills that would enrich their performance and contribution at the workplace and achieve goals.

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