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***A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IN TEACHING AND
LEARNING OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE IN BANASKANTHA DISTRICT***

SUMMARY

In the entire district, English literature was not offered in arts colleges till 1997. G.D.Modi College of Arts, the only college in the district, started offering BA with English literature from 1997. After 2003, mostly all self finance arts colleges and grant-in-aid arts colleges started offering English literature at UG level. In 2004, self-finance PG Center in English was started in G.D.Modi College. It is the only PG Center offering M.A English Programme in the entire district. In Arts, Science and Commerce colleges, English language has been taught as compulsory subject for many years. The students, learning English language and literature, are coming from rural areas. They possess immense hidden potentialities like the urban students. They do not lag behind in any manner as compared to the students living in urban areas. The difference is in the availability of quality education. They lack the quality of being smart learners. Good teachers create good students. Teacher training is an important part of education process. The teachers teaching English language and literature must adopt a suitable method conducive to the students coming from rural area.

Students from the rural background face obstacle of low confidence which results in poor performance of the students. They have psychological fear that English is a tough language to learn. The teachers must help them overcome this fear. How can they build up self-confidence is the important question to answer. Many colleges nowadays offer English as a special subject in B A Programme. However, most of them don't have qualified and well-trained staff. Enhancement of infrastructure, training to teachers, encouragement to students, reformation in

the teaching learning process and examination system will bring bright results in the imparting of employable skills to the students of the district.

The importance of English language is well known in India. English is the lingua franca of India. It is one of the most effective mediums of communication in India. Knowledge of English language is required for attaining better career opportunities. It has rich treasure of literature. It is medium of education. It has become an international language. It is the language of education, courts, administration in India. The students of the district do have desire to learn English language and literature but, this desire should be transformed into passion for learning. The students face many problems to learn English. If the problems are solved, and the students are oriented and guided properly, they will learn English in an effective manner. Some of the problems faced by the students are:

(A) Lack of an Easy Access

In rural areas students have to travel a large distance to reach the college. The transport facility is very poor. Students do not get the vehicles on time to go to college and attend the classroom lectures and enhance their career prospectus. This is the reason why they mostly avoid participating in SCOPE classes. Most of the colleges have Language Laboratory but the students cannot make the best use of it due to lack of transport facility. If the transport facility is increased the enrollment and regularity will be enhanced. Therefore transport system must be upgraded. There must be able to gain access to the language learning activities apart from the regular lectures.

(B) Economically backward Families

Some of the students in the district have keen desire to learn English language and literature. They enrol themselves in BA Programme in English too. But they are coming from economically backward families, so their parents are compelled not to send them to college; instead they have to help their parents in agriculture, dairy business to earn money. Consequently, they are not focused. They cannot concentrate on language learning in spite of their wish. Such students from poor sections of society must be provided with some incentives. They should be given adequate scholarships to continue and complete their education. Quality text books and learning equipments should be provided.

(C) Lack of Orientation

In most of the colleges, the students and teachers are not rightly motivated and orientated for the task of learning English Language and literature. The language learning must be activity based. There must be lot of interaction. It must not be like one way traffic. Android mobile phones and ICT must be used in the class room. The students are coming from gujarati medium. They don't have basic knowledge of pen language and tongue language. When in college they offer English as special subject in college, they should be rightly oriented. Each college should arrange "Functional English Course" for such students so that they may cope with the difficulties in literature classes.

(D) Lack of Infrastructure

Many colleges in the Banaskantha have poor infrastructure. Language Lab is must for learning English effectively. Quality infrastructure must be provided to the students. The library must have ample books for the learning English Language. Computers, Language Laboratories, smart boards, internet facility, library with quality books, residential facility for the students who need,

decent classrooms, must be provided in order to improve the quality of English language and literature learning.

(E) Basic Grammar and Functional English

Students of the district are coming from farfetched villages. They are afraid of learning English language because they did not learn it or they were not taught it properly. It appeared that they studied English as a subject in schools with a view to passing the exams. They must know the system of grammar. But they merely cramped the rules of grammar for the sake of passing the exams. If they had mastered the rules of grammar, they could have got the confidence to create their own original sentence structure. They could have been creative in expression of their ideas. Teachers must encourage them to learn grammar, and then practice the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Mock interviews, group discussions, seminars, should be conducted and exposure should be provided to them, so that they may learn English in the systematic manner. A communicator must have a rich vocabulary. Students must be trained to learn new words and use them in conversation. A sense of enthusiasm and hard work is essential to complete any task successfully. Language learning should become an experience of happiness rather than an experience of sorrow.

(E) Inadequate Teaching Staff

Many teaching positions are vacant. Teachers have been overburdened with the extra work. For quality teaching a teacher must get appropriate time for preparation for the lectures. The teachers when they find themselves overburdened with work, they cannot think of the problems faced by students in learning English language.

(F) Faulty Management System

It appears that all colleges are not administered well. Some colleges are administered as per the rules of administration, but in majority of institutions power is abused. Many colleges are administered poorly. The people who are entrusted with the task of management of the college are driven by commercial interests. They are not the educationists in the real sense but only in name. Some institutions appoint less qualified teachers so that they need not pay full salary as per rules. Many a college management has made education a business. The grants are not properly used. Teachers find it very difficult to maintain their enthusiasm and dedication in the corrupt atmosphere. For quality higher education, we must develop the management system of the institutions.

(G) Appropriate Method is not followed

Implementation of right teaching method creates obstacles in the process of learning language. There are various methods of teaching English. For Indian students English is not their mother tongue. We learn English as second language. The students face the obstacles in the process of learning English. Translation method is often used as suitable method for second language learners. This method has some advantages for comprehension. But it is not useful for development of creativity of the students in the newly acquired language. Direct method of teaching English should be followed with the translation method. Students should be encouraged to participate in group discussions. They should get the learning experience of the language.

(H) Lack of Motivation and Encouragement

Students from rural background often are not aware about the aims and objectives of teaching and learning English in the Indian context. English language has done great service to the nation both before and after freedom. English language connects country to the world. Students get better job opportunities. They can communicate with ease and excellence. Learning of any

language plays an important role in the development of personality of students. They learn the communication skills and can establish a bond of cooperation with people around them. Learning a language develops their confidence. It makes students employable in the service and industry sectors. Teachers should encourage and motivate students to learn English language in the effective manner. Education and the job opportunities must be linked. Teachers must be paid well so that the flow of talented youth will be maintained in the teaching profession.

Remedies

Learning and teaching of English in the effective manner is very important in our country. Hence we must find the ways to overcome the problems of teaching English to the rural students. Syllabus should be revised time to time. It must be relevant to cater to the needs of the students. Students should be able to establish relationship between real life situation and what type of knowledge they get. Indian culture and economic scenario may be presented in the selected literary texts. Remedies over teaching obstacles Teachers of English Language face enormous problems in India. Teachers should guide students to be competent. Most of the students from the rural area feel annoying to learn English. Students from the rural area do not get the appropriate atmosphere and infrastructure to develop their communication skills. They have immense potentiality but do not get adequate opportunities Standard of teaching and learning English is decreasing in rural India. We must solve the problems of teaching English. If we follow appropriate methods of teaching English, students will learn it in a better manner. Learning mother tongue is no doubt important. With knowing mother tongue, students also should be well trained in the learning of linguistic skills in English language. All problems are linked with one another. The economic model of development which we have been following needs to be examined time to time. Nowadays students are not very hopeful about their future. After completion of education, students are not certain whether they will get job or not. Our economic model should be reformed in such a manner that it should be able to create job opportunities for youths in our country Education and textbooks should be made interesting. Textbooks should reflect not only urban life but also rural life. Availability of quality education in rural areas will strengthen country and will bring the people on equal platform with the urban residents. It will help to achieve the dream of inclusive development. Knowledge of English language and literature will bridge the gap between the rural and urban youths. Student will be provided with equal opportunities of learning and employment. If remedies are implemented in the appropriate manner the obstacles in the teaching learning English will be removed. New methods of teaching should be introduced. The infrastructure like Language Lab, Smart Boards, Internet facility, quality textbooks, hostel facility; scholarships to the economically weaker sections, availability of job opportunities, will inspire the rural youths to learn English effectively. The teaching and learning process will become a matter of enjoyment and happiness for both teachers and learners. If they learn English language and literature, students will be competent for the job and perform great and difficult tasks and responsibility with ease and excellence.