English Communication Skills and the Needs of Engineering Students

B. Sanyasi Rao, I. S. V. Manjula, G. Suvarna Lakshmi

Abstract: English language is both a lingua franca and a library language in India. It plays a predominant role in Indian higher education, particularly for engineering education. English language is crucial for engineering students not only for academic excellence but also for career advancement. English for engineering students is a platform, where they could share feelings, exchange ideas and interact with each other to better their academic standards and careers progression. English, a widely spoken language in the world, is more important for Indian engineering students as they are expected to work anywhere in and out of India, where English is a medium of communication in the workplace.

Key Words: Lingua Franca, Library Language, Engineering Students, academic excellence & workplace.

I. INTRODUCTION

Engineering is one of the largest realms of study, where the maximum subject knowledge is available in English language. In the realm of engineering education, English language is used as common medium of communication throughout the world both for acquiring subject knowledge and for publishing their research reports, writing projects, presentations, debates, discussions and so on. English language is a predominant factor as it is the medium of instruction, to acquire subject knowledge from written material and to secure a job for themselves. Mr. Rup Narayan Shrestha & al. (2015) comment, [1] ‘Without English communication skills, engineering students may find themselves difficult to digest the concepts taught and to secure a job for themselves after completion of the course’. Nandan Nilekan (2017), the CEO and co-founder of Infosys, while addressing the graduating students in IIT Kakinada, commented, [2] ‘Machines are becoming an integral part of technologies. However, they will never take control over the jobs that involve people to do. Therefore strong communication skills are basic pillar of soft skills, which can make them collaborate and work as team’. Engineering students should have English language competence to augment the academic performance and career advancement. With superior English communication skills, engineering students are triple-benefitted i.e. for academics, for securing a job for themselves and for their career advancement.

II. ENGLISH COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR ENGINEERING STUDENTS’ ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Most scientific and technological papers and journals are available in English language in the world. Almost all the books, related to engineering subjects are written in English only. Rup Narayan Shrestha et al. (2015) comment [1], ‘The medium of instruction in the engineering colleges is commonly English’. Prof. V. Chandra Sekhar Rao (2017) opines, [3] ‘Engineering students are required to be good at English language both for academic needs and for their employability skills’. K. Latha (2014) opines, [4] ‘English language is tool that affects engineering students’ academic life, where they deal with countless lectures in the classroom, instructions in laboratory, project reports and paper publications. Most of the engineering classroom teaching is held on in English language. It requires having good command over English communication skills’. Engineering students mainly depend on internet source to get basic idea about their subject knowledge. Most of the information, Internet provides is in English. Ms. Mane Varsharani Shamrao (2017) states, [5] ‘The most convenient source of information that Internet provides is in English’. In addition to, to go for higher education abroad, engineering students need have to take up standardize tests, TOEFL, IELTS, GRE, GMAT, PTE etc… to prove their English language proficiency. The tests play a pivotal role in getting an admission in foreign universities. K. Latha (2014) opines, [4] ‘Speaking in English effectively is a significant criterion for admission process and a candidate’s capability to master English language skills and betters their chances of admissions in foreign Universities’.

III. ENGLISH COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR EMPLOYABILITY OF ENGINEERING STUDENTS

The advancement of Science and Technology brings a new scope for engineering courses and the importance of engineering has been gradually flowering in the contemporary world. Along with technical skills of the engineering graduate, effective English communication skills are also desired as they are supposed to work in the global context. Prof. Gurucharan Singh (2018), Vice President – Corporate Affairs, HR & Training, Cambridge Institute of Technology says [6] ‘Globalization demands quality engineering graduates. It requires focus on progress of generic skills, application skills, problem-solving skills, communication skills and technical skills of the entry-level engineering graduates’. The Deccan Herald (2012), published an article bearing the title, ‘Importance of English in employment’.

© Copyright: All rights reserved. Published By: Blue Eyes Intelligence Engineering and Sciences Publication (BEIESP). doi: 10.35940/ijmh.E0533.014520 International Journal of Management and Humanities (IJMH) ISSN: 2394-0913 (Online), Volume-4 Issue-5, January 2020
English Communication Skills are badly important for engineering students and benefit them in three ways. Firstly an expected level of in English language proficiency would be essential for engineering students as major part of the theory is taught in English language. To study abroad in some of the best universities in the world, students have to take up standardized tests to prove their English language proficiency. These tests play a major role for admissions to most of the universities overseas. In addition to, today’s engineers have to communicate in English with their colleagues and counterparts across the globe. Among the most of the professionals like the scientists, technologists and business connoisseurs who belong to various cultural and linguistic milieu, English is largely taken into consideration as a language of communication. Hence desired English communication skills are expected by the companies and HR Managers during the interviews. Finally, after having secured a job, English communication skills are vital to sustain and to be successful in the career at the workplace.

1. For academic excellence
   - To digest the concept taught by the teachers in the classroom.
   - For communication purpose (as English is predominantly considered to be a language of communication).
   - To produce clear technical documents
   - To understand and write academic reports.
   - To understand technical papers or journals written in English.
   - To contribute to presentations, debates and discussions.
   - To read books with international standards.
   - To go for further studies abroad in some of the best universities in the world (students have to take up standardized tests to prove their English language proficiency)

2. For holding employability
   - To augment confidence in various engineering contexts
   - To acquire the potentiality of employability.

V. CONCLUSION

English Communications Skills are badly important for engineering students and benefit them in three ways. Firstly an expected level of in English language proficiency would be essential for engineering students as major part of the theory is taught in English language. To study abroad in some of the best universities in the world, students have to take up standardized tests to prove their English language proficiency. These tests play a major role for admissions to most of the universities overseas. In addition to, today’s engineers have to communicate in English with their colleagues and counterparts across the globe. Among the most of the professionals like the scientists, technologists and business connoisseurs who belong to various cultural and linguistic milieu, English is largely taken into consideration as a language of communication. Hence desired English communication skills are expected by the companies and HR Managers during the interviews. Finally, after having secured a job, English communication skills are vital to sustain and to be successful in the career at the workplace.

1. For academic excellence
   - To digest the concept taught by the teachers in the classroom.
   - For communication purpose (as English is predominantly considered to be a language of communication).
   - To produce clear technical documents
   - To understand and write academic reports.
   - To understand technical papers or journals written in English.
   - To contribute to presentations, debates and discussions.
   - To read books with international standards.
   - To go for further studies abroad in some of the best universities in the world (students have to take up standardized tests to prove their English language proficiency)

2. For holding employability
   - To augment confidence in various engineering contexts
   - To acquire the potentiality of employability.

V. CONCLUSION

English Communications Skills are badly important for engineering students and benefit them in three ways. Firstly an expected level of in English language proficiency would be essential for engineering students as major part of the theory is taught in English language. To study abroad in some of the best universities in the world, students have to take up standardized tests to prove their English language proficiency. These tests play a major role for admissions to most of the universities overseas. In addition to, today’s engineers have to communicate in English with their colleagues and counterparts across the globe. Among the most of the professionals like the scientists, technologists and business connoisseurs who belong to various cultural and linguistic milieu, English is largely taken into consideration as a language of communication. Hence desired English communication skills are expected by the companies and HR Managers during the interviews. Finally, after having secured a job, English communication skills are vital to sustain and to be successful in the career at the workplace.

1. For academic excellence
   - To digest the concept taught by the teachers in the classroom.
   - For communication purpose (as English is predominantly considered to be a language of communication).
   - To produce clear technical documents
   - To understand and write academic reports.
   - To understand technical papers or journals written in English.
   - To contribute to presentations, debates and discussions.
   - To read books with international standards.
   - To go for further studies abroad in some of the best universities in the world (students have to take up standardized tests to prove their English language proficiency)

2. For holding employability
   - To augment confidence in various engineering contexts
   - To acquire the potentiality of employability.

V. CONCLUSION

English Communications Skills are badly important for engineering students and benefit them in three ways. Firstly an expected level of in English language proficiency would be essential for engineering students as major part of the theory is taught in English language. To study abroad in some of the best universities in the world, students have to take up standardized tests to prove their English language proficiency. These tests play a major role for admissions to most of the universities overseas. In addition to, today’s engineers have to communicate in English with their colleagues and counterparts across the globe. Among the most of the professionals like the scientists, technologists and business connoisseurs who belong to various cultural and linguistic milieu, English is largely taken into consideration as a language of communication. Hence desired English communication skills are expected by the companies and HR Managers during the interviews. Finally, after having secured a job, English communication skills are vital to sustain and to be successful in the career at the workplace.

1. For academic excellence
   - To digest the concept taught by the teachers in the classroom.
   - For communication purpose (as English is predominantly considered to be a language of communication).
   - To produce clear technical documents
   - To understand and write academic reports.
   - To understand technical papers or journals written in English.
   - To contribute to presentations, debates and discussions.
   - To read books with international standards.
   - To go for further studies abroad in some of the best universities in the world (students have to take up standardized tests to prove their English language proficiency)

2. For holding employability
   - To augment confidence in various engineering contexts
   - To acquire the potentiality of employability.
3. For the career advancement
   • To be professional at workplace ambiance.
   • To communicate with their colleagues in their workplace and with their counterparts across the world so as to build a strong interpersonal relations among the peers, colleagues and counterparts.
   • To sustain in the workplace successfully well.
   • To achieve prospective & Progressive career.


REFERENCES

11. National Educational Policy - 2019 (p.90)
15. India Skills Report 2019 (p.38)

AUTHORES’ PROFILE

B. Sanyasi Rao, has bagged 17 years of experience in teaching English for undergraduate, graduates and postgraduate students in India and abroad. He is a research scholar, JNTU, Kakinada, EG & Andhra Pradesh and an Associate Professor of English in NS Raja Institute of Technology, Visakhapatnam. He shoulders the onus of Training Head for CRT Programs. He gained a few years of experience as Verbal Trainer at IMS, Odissha, where he trained the students for CAT and GRE. He taught graduates in Al-Merg University, Al-Khooms, Libya. His area of research is English Language Teaching (ELT).

Dr. I.S.V. Manjula, is a visiting Professor of English (ratified by JNTUK) and a Trainer of Master Trainers (TOT) - training employees, students and teaching fraternity of various organizations. She’s a certified Examiner for IELTS. She’s validated as Lead Trainer by British Council to train master trainers, teachers and leaders in Education Institutions. She’s awarded Sri R. Venkataratnam Research Medal for Best Thesis for Ph.D. dissertation by AU. Her institution honored her with Pratibha Award. She’s conducted 68 workshops and published several research papers, poems and article. She presented papers in National and International Conferences. She’s an invited speaker on Communication and Soft Skills in varied academic and industrial sectors. She’s recognized Research Supervisor for JNTUK and SVU. She has professional Membership of IACLALS and ELTAI.

Dr. G. Suvarna Lakshmi, is an Asso.Professor and Head, Department of ELT, SDE. With a doctoral research focused on developing critical thinking skills in ESL/EFL learners, she’s worked on varied research areas including materials, school education, technology supported learning, etc. She conducted many training workshops and presented research papers in 51 national and international conferences held in USA, Singapore, Libya, Malaysia and Australia and many of them are published in reputed journals. She has a very unique experience of English language teaching from primary school to Post Graduate level that included various teaching ESP courses, in addition to teacher the training programmes. She has also been guiding research in ELT. She contributed to Distance Education materials for 3 universities and co-authored textbooks, prescribed to UG courses across universities in combined AP state.