

## Global Employment Opportunities and English Language Profic

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ABSTRACT Education has always been a matter of great concern with all the species. However, when it comes to human beings, education receives multifarious shades. Most of the human education is done with the help of language. A human being's very existence depends on his or her knowledge of the language of the society of which they are part. Language is such a phenomenon which differentiates human beings from other species. It is the tool of human communication.

Language proficiency is very crucial as far its use is concerned. It can give the user not only respect in the community but a better employment. It is the most successful tool of all human transactions: financial and non-financial. The language like English carries great importance in this era of globalization. It has become the language of the globe. The knowledge of and proficiency in English has always brought a person great opportunities. With English, a person can be locally revered in a country like India and globally accommodated. English language proficiency can increase the worth of the person, consequently employment chances to him/her increase. Proficiency in English brings the person the world-wide job in local, national as well as multinational companies. This paper is an attempt to the ways of employability enhancement through proficiency in English. The current age which is specifically the age of the liberalization, privatization and globalization has almost brought about a big change in the world. With the advent of the computer revolution the human life has accelerated its speed to an unbelievable stage. The human world is shrinking very fast. It is coming up a village and hence the idea of the global village is getting deeply rooted. The racial, social, political, religious breaches in the world are being diminished. Such a world needed a thread of control and it is found in the form of English language.

English language reached through out the world during the colonization. The British had their colonies across the world. They brought about various reforms might be humanistically or for the sake of better administration. Education is the major reform made by them in their colonies. They educated the natives of the colonies through the missionaries for the spread of Christianity and to prepare man force to assist them in their administration. This was, but naturally, done in English. In this way English reached the farthest corners of the world. English made the native inhabitants of the colonies not only literate but also wise. It gave rise to the leadership among them who could fight against the British and enable their motherland to be free from the British rule. In a way, English language proved to be tool of not only the growth and spread of the British Empire but also its deterioration. Now a day it has become the language of the universe. In the cinema, 'Avatar' which is based on a science fiction it becomes the language of another globe as it taken to another planet where the beings from the earth make a colony named Pandora. English has emerged as the language of the globe during the last few decades. With the advent of computer, internet and information technology, English has become an indispensable part in all walks of life. In India English is no more just the language of the Babus or a library language. According to Braj Kachru, "English has become an integral part of the country's linguistic ecology and is widely perceived as a language of power and opportunity. It invariably occupies a prominent 'second' position in Indian trilingualism and is used by the educated population, along with Hindi or other regional languages."<sup>1</sup> Almost all over India, English is an obligatory part of the curricula. At most schools English is taught right from the first standard or from the fifth standard. Hence, an Indian student learns English for either 8 years or 12 years before he/she commences his/her degree courses. However, it is shocking that most of the undergraduate students cannot communicate properly in English. R.K. Singh, in this context, remarks, "It appears a colossal waste of resources if most of the university graduates cannot use the English they learn from year 3 onwards in 'real-life' situations. The state of teaching English is such that communication is simply not induced; and ironically, a great majority of about 36% of the educated population are literate non-readers."<sup>2</sup> This fairly indicates that something goes wrong with the whole pedagogical process. The students are learning English which is taught to them. They get good grades also. But when it comes to actual

communication (spoken or written) students do it neither confidently nor competently. This is happening with most of the students but surprisingly even with the students who opt English as the special subject for their graduation. This means after studying English for 8 years and in some cases 12 years, these students choose English language and literature for their B. A. degree course in which they are, it is expected, optimally exposed to English for consecutive three years, still they cannot communicate competently in English. Hence the question of employability is on the anvil. Why students or the would-be employees require English? English language has been the part of almost every curriculum. Still the learners find it difficult to loot the extra-advantage offered by the language. Most the students consider this language merely as a subject to be passed out in the examinations. They never consider it as an extra skill to acquire. Then how can they attain proficiency in English. The focus of the present paper is how English language is necessary in the context of global employment.

Language is a means of human communication. It is species specific and species uniform. Only humans have language and all humans have language. Every human must acquire the language of his/her community. Hence there are many linguistic communities across the world. Every language has utility and that is why it is called a tool. This very tool enables a person to be the part of his/ her society and conduct the day to day activities with ease. Actually language is highly utilized tool in the human world. When a person knows the language of his/her society, he/she becomes eligible to be the part of that society. Hence language becomes a qualification to acquire the membership or citizenship of the society or the country. Knowing a language is but a natural phenomenon for the human beings. Those who know more than one language can widen their horizon and have access to the better life. Gone are the days when one used to stick to the old traditional societies with limited employment resources. The employability of a person knowing a single language is very limited. Such a person cannot cross the circumference of his/her own society. It also depends upon the status of the language of the person's society. Therefore if a person wants to have the better chances of employment, then he/she must have the proficiency in the language that has got the status of the global status. In the present scenario it is English that has got the aforesaid status. English is bringing a kind of homogeneity in this linguistically multifarious world. Naturally it bears a very high employability rate as compared to the other languages in the world.

English is the language of science and technology. It is, one can easily observe, the richest language of information in the world. The present age is the age of Information and Technology. Hence, it is but natural that those who are familiar with the ABC of IT and proficient in English have plenty of employment opportunities in the global market across the world. The multi-national companies today need the skilled personnel with certain qualifications, experience and high proficiency in English. The outsourcing industry is an excellent example. Employment opportunities are awaiting the right employees who have a good command over English language and skill and knowledge of the fields like BPOs, RPOs, KPOs, MPOs and LPOs.

A person with English language proficiency can excel in any field. As far as users are concerned, English is the biggest language in the world. Hence, the person who knows English finds it easy to accommodate him / her in the any corner of the world. Some years ago the Chinese were against English. Now the situation is different in China. The people there are learning English as it helps them to stand in the global market. It is not a first hand knowledge but said that the Chinese are undergoing the tongue operations to speak English in a good way. Almost in all the countries across the world English is being taught and learned these days as a part of the Government policies. But the learners all over find it difficult to acquire proficiency in English. According to Mr. Pepper Marcelo who has studied the case of English proficiency in the Asian countries Malaysia is on the top with 6.71 score; Philippines stands at second position having the score 6.69; Indonesia is third with 5.99 score and India is at the fourth position with 5.79 score. He sees English as a lingua franca language of international business and diplomacy.<sup>3</sup> This clearly shows the importance of English in the global employment.

Similarly, advancement in science and technology has brought the world very closer and made it incredibly faster. This has brought about a considerable rise of employment in all sectors of human life. English has become an indispensable part of the modern life. It may not be wise, it can be observed, to run even a small business as a part of small scale industry or self-employment. English

language is helping people to better their life by all means. English is preferred in the local market also. Hence those who wish to progress need to use this language.

In the field of education English is of great importance. The research scholars of the international reputation need to be highly proficient in English language. If they wish to receive international acclaim to their research work then they must present and publish their work in English. Otherwise their remains local and is of no importance to the international community. Suppose a college teacher of History from Maharashtra makes an intensive study on a historical issue in the history of Maharashtra. If he is proficient in English, his work can go across the world. However, his want of English proficiency will surely restrict him to be a part of international academia. This is applicable to all the subjects tackled at the college and university level.

In the corporate sector nothing can happen without the knowledge of English language. Those who are proficient in English can climb the ladder of success in a very short time. Even the helpers (peons, sweepers, attendants and others) are supposed to English. And in the course of time if some of them get the required qualifications and English proficiency, they obtain better and higher positions. Almost all the executives in the corporate sector are in their positions not just because they are qualified but they have proficiency in English language. It means proficiency in English is the matter of concern sweepers to executives.

As the world is getting closer international travelling is an area that requires English proficient employees. Travelling has become so easy that it would not be exaggeration if somebody breakfasts in London, lunches in Shanghai and dines in Manhattan. The travelling companies need their staff to be proficient in English as they have to entertain the travelers across the whole world. If a person is proficient in English, he/she has the employability in travelling companies or agencies at the global level. Along with travelling hotel management is also a very important field of employment. In the star hotels every employee is required to have good knowledge of English. As the travelers from various countries come and stay in these hotels, language becomes a very crucial matter. The travelers may hail from diverse speech communities; it is a challenge for the hotel management to entertain them by all means. This challenge can be met in a better way with the help of English language. In such a circumstance, all the persons on the hotel staff such as sweepers, helpers, chefs, cooks, attendants, waiters, supervisors, receptionists and managers need to be proficient in English. If they perform satisfactorily they can be promoted to higher posts.

It would not be possible to cover and explain every field of employment in this paper. However, it may not be wrong to think that even local business can be prospered with the knowledge of English. In this era of IT any businessman or employee can have access to necessary information with the help of the Internet. Information available on the Internet is inevitably in English. Hence English proficiency, both in writing and speech, is a must to seek not only *glocal* employment. For this what one requires is the mantra, '*Go Glocal*'. English language is the foremost important sign of *glocalness*.

To conclude, English proficiency is a big challenge for the English language academia. In the schools and colleges students study the language as it is an obligatory subject. They cannot skip it. However, they study it as a subject to pass out the exam and get a certificate and not as a language which has high employability. What most of the students are found concerned with is to know about English. They least concerned with to know English. The English teachers are pleased to tell them about English language and just its grammar. They are seldom found busy in letting students know English. To let the students know English, they must be provided optimum exposure to English language in variety of situation. In this way they will be eligible in a true and complete sense for the world-wide jobs in local, national as well as multinational companies. They would get good government jobs also.

#### References:

1. Singh, R. K. 2005. *Teaching English for Specific Purposes: An Evolving Experience*. Book Enclave. Jaipur. P. 6.
2. Ibid. P. 8.
3. Planet Philippines.com (20 January, 2013)