

The Impact of English Language in Indian Education

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Abstract

Language is an important tool of communication in the world. Communication helps to share our views and thoughts with everyone and which is considered as the foundation of education. The power of language helps to obtain a global understanding. They help us to improve our soft skills, cognitive abilities, and multiculturalism. We have many languages in India which gave moral values and support. English language is considered as the universal language and it is using as the primary language of instructions in many schools, institutions, and reputed universities in India. It helps everyone to enrich their skills and knowledge in the specific fields such as technology, business and education. And it's making a marvelous impact in globally. Let's discuss about the impact of English Language in Indian Education.

Keywords: Education, Backbone of Communication, Cognitive Benefits, Globalization, Cultural Understanding

Introduction

Language enhances LSRW skills and fostering educational growth. Language can build new thinking, bonding between people, and cultural understanding. Language in education creates an awareness of cultural differences, fostering empathy. In India we have many languages like Tamil, Sanskrit, Hindi, Malayalam, and English. Basically, people and students are getting the basic instructions through their mother tongue. With the help of language in education, they could shape their life style. During the 18th century the schools were introduced in India by the British East India Company. The history of English education in India was emerging from the colonial and post-colonial periods in Indian history. Thomas Babington Macaulay introduced the English language and British education to India. English became the language of instructions in many universities in 1850's. Now it is known as the universal language and primary language in many prestigious educational institutions. It helps the middle class people to enhance their knowledge. According to the British Council in 2019, over 500 million students are learning English as a second language in India.

English played a significant role in India's independence. It served as a bridge, connecting people from various regions and languages. English helped to spread the ideas of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Subhash Chandra Bose. Their ideas were published in English-language journals like *The Hindu*, *The Indian Express*, and *Young India*, which helped to fight against the British and their rules. Famous English-language writers played a significant role in shaping India's freedom movement through their writings. The following works are some proof for how English language is creating impact in education field. The notable authors and their works are: Rabindranath Tagore - *Gitanjali*, Sarojini Naidu - *The Bird of time*, Raja Ram Mohan Roy - *Bengal Herald*, Mahatma Gandhi - *Hind Swaraj*, Jawaharlal Nehru - *The Discovery of India*.

These are some examples for the greatest impact of English language in India. English is remaining a major part of Indian education system to spread the culture, traditions and politics. It makes the learners to gain a deliberate knowledge globally, especially in fields such as technology, business and medicine.

As the above mentioned lines, English Language is working as a backbone of communication to connect the people from various countries. Language is playing an essential role in communication process which helps to exchange the information, ideas and feelings between the sender and the receiver. With the help of language skills, individuals will become civilized and they can improve their knowledge in both personal and professional areas. Furthermore, it helps to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and cognitive abilities which are complex challenges at the present time.

India is meant for its diverse nature in all the aspects. Some of the aspects are multiculturalism and modernism. Multiculturalism is the combination of multiple cultures. It encourages the unity, creativity and diversity in the society. By adopting multiculturalism people could maintain the proper community without any discriminations. In addition, it helps to promote the mutual respect and cultural heritage in India. English is known as the global language which connects the people all over the world. Meanwhile, other language literary works have been translated into English to foster multiculturalism. For example, India's national anthem, Jana Gana Mana, was written in Bengali and later translated into English, which helped promote national unity. And the Greatest classic work Thirukkural was written in Tamil by Thiruvalluvar. Later, it was translated into many languages, including English, to share its inspiration and ethical values with global audience.

Moreover, we use this language for national events such as Independence Day and Republic Day celebrations. In addition, we are using English for global events like international conferences, seminars, and workshops. Similarly, the English translation of Leo Tolstoy's "War and Peace" from Russian had a profound impact, spreading diversity worldwide. As a common language, English encourages the writers, novelists, and poets to share their creative works at public events. International literary festivals like the Jaipur Literary Festival provide a platform for writers from various cultural backgrounds to exhibit their work with a broader audience.

Multicultural literary works which created such a great impact on English Language Education include, Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake* and Vikram Seth's *A Suitable Boy*. These are the examples for multicultural literary works consist of the complexities of Indian cultural heritages. These initiatives are inspiring and encouraging the young writers to collaborate over the cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Culture and language are two inseparable sides of the same coin. Teaching culture through language is the toughest task for teachers. Teaching the English language is purely associated with cultural background, which explains other countries' lifestyles in detail. For example, American literature books consist of their own culture, tradition, accent, beliefs, and lifestyle. While learning this subject, students can understand the concept of their lifestyle.

The Impact of the English Language

English language plays a dominant role in our country, its influence is felt across various fields. The language has opened up numerous job opportunities and provides access to a vast pool of global knowledge. Mastering English enables students to tap into research and ideas from around the world, facilitating a rich exchange of knowledge. Furthermore, it empowers them to share their concepts and research findings with a larger audience. Proficiency in English also inculcates self-confidence in individuals. Because of its dominant role, many Competitive Examinations in India, like JEE, IIT, NET, SET and UPSC are conducted in English Language.

English has become the official language of 67 countries due to its numerous usages and benefits. In India, the Right to Education Act of 2009 has made education a fundamental right for all Indian children between the ages of 6 and 14.

During the pandemic, students struggled to continue their education. As a result, people turned to online learning to continue their educational journey. The English language enables the students and the people to effectively utilize the technical tools in the digital world. The English language has played a vital role in assisting online education during the pandemic. It has enabled access to a boundless online educational resources, including Articles, Videos, E-books, Podcasts, Coursera, World digital library, MOOCs (Massive Open Online Course).

English has allowed the students, teachers, and research scholars to engage in virtual learning environments and knowledge-sharing. Furthermore, English has unfolded the opportunities for online certification courses and programs which improves the quality of students. As a global language, its usage is endless in every fields including science, computers, aviation and tourism. Moreover, it provides a lot of career growth in both national and international companies.

At present 2024, over 1.52 billion people are using English language as a second language in India. According to recent case study, around 129 million people are speaking English language in India.

The Impact of English Language is remarkable in the technological field. It enables to connect the professionals from various countries and cultures. Though they are facing some challenges, it works as a bridge to embark on a shared path.

It is playing a significant role in shaping the medical field since the British Colonial era. And the IJMR, NIH, MCI, PubMed databases are published in English which facilitates to the students.

Conclusion

The role of English Language Education is proving its own identity in the world. People who know it, can survive anywhere in the world. This language plays a crucial role in shaping an individual's life. Historically, English language education has achieved unparalleled success. India has made a huge progress in various fields, including education, business, technology, science, and medicine. Due to the impact of the English language education, many people in India have succeeded largely, such as Sundar Pichai (CEO of Google and Alphabet Inc), Satya Nadella (CEO of Microsoft), Salman Rushdie (Famous author and Booker Prize winner), and Arundhati Roy (Author and activist). These individuals proved that the impact of language could open the worldwide opportunities and success.

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