

Impact of English communication on the Career of Engineering Students

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In the present era, the English language, which was once the language of speakers of Anglo-Saxon origin in England, has been the language of the people of the entire world irrespective of their nationality, community and ethnicity. This language has been globalized and its use has been widespread. People involved in various fields and professions use it as a means of communication to acquire information, clambering the ladder in their academic field, and reaching the summit of success. In the engineering education also, the English language is being used as a common means of communication all over the world. Communication skills are fundamental requirements for engineers. No matter however qualified and proficient they might be in their academic career, they need to possess high level of proficiency in communication. The demand of effective communication is very high in the present day world in the engineering field due to the influence of globalization in every sphere. Whether it is for pursuing one's academic career in the universities abroad, or executing duty in the local companies, one needs English proficiency for communication.

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The language which connects people from different regions, cultures and nations is English. Due to the fact that the British ruled most parts of the world a few years ago, they could conveniently sow the seeds of English language and culture in those countries. Though not intended, the British gave a common language to the world. It has helped the world in disseminating any kind of information fast and clear without any translation. Although the British left their colonies a long time back, their efforts and reforms in the field of education are yielding results now.

Today, English communication is the life blood of social as well as corporate world. The language, which was once the language of native speakers of Anglo-Saxon origin in England, has been the language of the people of the entire world irrespective of their nationality, community and ethnicity. It has been globalized and its use has been pervasive. We exist because we communicate. People involved in multiple fields and professions use it as a means of communication to acquire information, clambering the ladder in their academic field and reaching the success point in their venture, conducting researches, publishing their research findings and executing their duties in their respective areas of work.

English language is the current koine of the international business, technology, aviation, banking computing medicines engineering and tourism. About one fifth of people all over the world are acquainted with English. It is spoken by 1.8 billion people in the world and the number is still increasing. Almost every single university in the world is conducting scientific studies in English. Total 60% of radio programs are broadcast in English, more than 70% of the content or address of mailing letters are written in this globalised language. English is becoming the world's language of the 21st century. About 70% of the world's population speak English or know it. More than 80% of all stored information in the world is in English or translated into it.

In the present age of globalization when the whole world has been shrunk to a small village due to the rapid expansion of communication highway, the importance of the English language is increasing at a swift pace as there is no alternative language as widespread as this. Engineering graduates require an ever-increasing horizon of skills to maintain relevance with the global environment of the new millennium. Communication skills are a vital component of this, recognized by academia and industry alike. It occupies an important position in our current education system also from school level to university level. It plays a significant role of a key to open the door of development and prosperity in our personal and professional life. To achieve success in any field, one has to know, understand and communicate effectively. In the era of liberalization, privatization and globalization, an English communication skill is the key to success.

In the field of engineering education also, it is being used as a common means of communication all over the world whether it is for acquiring knowledge from books or publishing their research reports, or for giving oral presentations or for presenting papers in the conferences and seminars. Besides technical competency, theoretical knowledge of engineering, what is sought and taught in the Faculty of Engineering, should be coupled with communication. It undoubtedly occupies a very significant position as engineering is the biggest field of study in the world and English is a tool that significantly affects engineering students in academic life. While most of the theories are taught in English, it requires having a good English communication competence. All the lectures, tutorials, project reports, labs in universities are conducted in English. The most widespread source of information i.e. internet also provides most of the information in English. So engineering students should at least master the basic English ability to deal with the countless English lectures, tutorials, labs, projects and papers. Communication skills are fundamental requirements for engineers. No matter however qualified and proficient they might be in their academic career, they need to

possess high level of proficiency in communication. Lack of adequate communication skills undermines the image of the engineer. To study abroad in some of the best universities in the world, students have to take standardized tests to prove their English language proficiency. These play a major role for admissions to most of the universities overseas. These tests are measurements to ensure that the students from non English speaking countries are able to write, listen and converse in English fluently.

In professional lives also it comes in very handy, as in today's world, employers seek graduates with sound communication skills, along with technical engineering knowledge. Globalization influences industry's needs; a global engineer must be able to easily cross national and cultural boundaries. At present corporate world is troubled by untrained manpower and attrition for which reason again is a lack of communication skills.

Having a good communication skill is a valuable asset for any organization. Professionals with strong hold on English language are set in higher level of standards in an organization. Work doesn't happen in a vacuum. An engineer is required to communicate with the clients of various fields, academic level and nationality. If they fail to convey their ideas appropriately and effectively, it may have a negative impact on their image as engineers. An engineer has multi-farious personality and multiple responsibilities on his/her shoulder, he/she is required to possess different kinds of abilities. For handling all these responsibilities, he/she needs to be perfect in communication skills. The work of engineers is intricate and technical, but not everybody they work with has the same technical expertise, which makes it even more important for them to have good communication skills. Effective communication in engineering is critical to ensure that all project participants are on the same page. As Patil said... "Besides analytical and problem solving skills, subject specific knowledge, research and improved decision making ability, management skills, understanding of other culture, confidence and competence to work in international environment are considered the most essential qualities for engineers. However, at the bottom of these lies an effective communication skill."

It is very important for non-native English users because it is widely spoken all over the world. In our country about 75% students of the engineering are from rural areas and most of them come through regional language medium schools. No doubt they do possess intelligence that is required for higher education and bright future, but at every walk of life and career this language problem becomes a stumbling block in their way of career. The engineering students whose mother tongue is other than the English language, it is more important to learn this language for academic enhancement as well as for future career because they are the people who enjoy international job markets. The engineer, who has obtained an engineering degree from the university of one country, may have an equal entrance to job opportunity in another country. When they go to foreign countries, they may come across many different scientists, technologists and business experts. At this moment, they need a common language and that language is English. Today's engineer has to communicate with more number of his counterparts throughout the globe. Large number of engineers have to travel to many continents and work away from their home country. They also have to work with scientists, technologists and business experts from culturally and linguistically different communities. In that English becomes the predominant language for communication.

English communication skills are recognized as the vital element in the academic life and career of the engineering students. It needs making use of integrated methods to facilitate advanced communication skills, which is the demand of industry as well as society. The students of rural area engineering students should effectively make use of the faculty, education system and the amenities provided to them to become successful in life and career. Communication skills and language are recognized as important elements in the education of the modern engineer, including English for specific purposes. Still, there seems to be limited implementation of English courses globally, despite its current lingua franca status. The institutions that have already executed multilingual and communication elements will be at the forefront of providing the demands of industry and society. Countries will be best served by endorsing additional language skills so that engineering graduates can work across borders in an increasingly globalised and multinational industry and society.

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