



Difficulties faced by Rural Students in Learning English as a Second Language

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Abstract: Rural Indian students, like urban students, have enormous untapped potential in comparison to the students of metropolitan regions. They do not fall behind in any way. The distinction lies in the accessibility of high-quality education. The government should take appropriate measures to ensure that communities obtain high-quality education. Education is a must for a dignified and decent existence. Students from rural backgrounds have a challenge of low self-esteem, which leads to poor academic achievement. Proper mentoring instils confidence in them, and they become capable of completing any huge or difficult endeavour. According to the World Bank, in 2021, India's rural population was 65 million. In India, the majority of people live in villages. We must improve the quality of education in rural areas of our country to become a strong and developed nation. Infrastructure improvements, teacher training, student motivation, and reforms to the teaching-learning process and examination system would yield positive outcomes in the transfer of employable skills to rural adolescents.

Keywords: *Confidence, High-quality Education, Improvement, Training, Employability skills.*

INTRODUCTION

Education is the universal solution to all problems. Individuals must be provided with high-quality education by the government. Education is essential for growth. It benefits both the person and the community. In India, the value of the English language is widely understood. India's lingua franca is English. It is one of India's most successful communication channels. It boasts a plethora of literary treasures. It is a type of educational media. It has developed into a global language. It is the language of education, the courts and administration in India. In India, the number of colleges has expanded dramatically. Teachers make every effort to provide their students with a high-quality education. If rural students mastered English, they would have had more job options. Students in rural areas confront several challenges when it comes to learning English. The students will be able to learn English more efficiently if the concerns are addressed. Some of the challenges that students experience are as follows:

Lack of transportation facility

Students in remote locations must travel a long distance to attend college. The transportation system is inadequate. Students do not have access to automobiles in time to drive to college, attend classes and further their job prospects. Enrollment and regularity will improve if the transportation facility is expanded. Some of the settlements lack access to decent highways. Roads are not sufficiently maintained. As a result, the transportation infrastructure must be modernized.

Low Income of Parents

Some kids in rural India aspire to learn and achieve their goals. However, because their parents' income is poor, they are unable to send them to college; instead, they assist their parents in the agriculture and dairy industries to make money. Incentives and scholarships must be provided to students from low-income families so that they can continue and complete their education. Textbooks and learning materials of high quality should be offered.

Lack of Infrastructure

In rural India, many universities have inadequate facilities. We must offer great infrastructure to promote quality higher education in the twenty-first century. To increase the quality of higher education in India, computers, language laboratories, smart boards, internet access, a library with high-quality literature, residential facilities for students in need, and adequate classrooms must be supplied.

Problem with Grammar and Vocabulary

Students from rural areas are apprehensive about learning English because it is required of them as a second language. They must understand the grammatical system. They will have the courage to build their creative sentence structures once they have mastered the basics of grammar. They will uniquely convey their views. Teachers should encourage students to master grammar and then practise their listening, speaking, reading, and writing abilities. Mock interviews, group discussions, and seminars should be held, as well as exposure, so that students may methodically learn English. A communicator needs a broad vocabulary. It is necessary to teach students how to learn new words and use them in conversation. To perform any activity successfully, a sense of passion and hard work are required. Instead of being a source of sadness, language acquisition should be a source of joy.

Inadequate Teaching Staff

There are several vacancies in the teaching profession. Teachers have been overworked as a result of the additional workload. A teacher must be given adequate time to prepare for lectures to provide great instruction. When instructors are overworked, they are unable to consider the difficulties that pupils face in learning the English language.

Faulty Management System

Colleges are not all well managed. Some colleges are run according to administrative regulations, but power is misused in the majority of them. Many colleges are run inefficiently. The people in charge of the college's administration are motivated by business objectives. They are not educators in the true meaning of the word, but simply in name. Teachers are only selected when they donate a large sum to the institutions. Education has become a lucrative industry for many executives. In this corrupt environment, it is extremely difficult for teachers to retain their passion and devotion. We must improve the management structure of the institutions to provide high-quality higher education.

Appropriate Method is not followed

Implementing the correct teaching strategy generates roadblocks in the language learning process. To teach English, a variety of methods can be employed. The bulk of Indian students are not native English speakers. As a second language, we are aiming to learn English. In the course of learning English, pupils experience challenges. The translation technique is frequently used for second-language learners. This strategy offers a few benefits in terms of understanding. However, it is ineffective in developing pupils' inventiveness in a newly acquired language. The translation technique should be used in conjunction with the direct method of teaching English. Group conversations should be promoted among students. They should be given the chance to study the language.

Lack of Motivation and Encouragement

Rural students are frequently uninformed of English teaching and learning goals and objectives in India. Both before and after independence, the English language has been of immense assistance to the country. Students have a higher chance of landing a job. They can converse fluently and effectively. Any language learnt has a significant impact on a student's personality development. They gain communication skills and can form cooperative bonds with others around them. Learning a language boosts their self-esteem. It prepares students for work in the service and manufacturing industries. Teachers should encourage and urge pupils to learn English as quickly as possible. Education and employment possibilities must be intertwined. Teachers must be highly compensated for the teaching profession to continue to attract outstanding young people.

Conclusion

In our country, it is critical to learn and teach English effectively. As a result, we'll need to come up with solutions for overcoming the difficulties of teaching English to youngsters in rural areas. The curriculum should be evaluated frequently. To satisfy the needs of students, it must be contemporary. Students should be able to make connections between what they learn in class and what they learn in real life. The selected literary pieces may depict Indian culture and the economic situation. In India, English-language teachers encounter significant challenges. Teachers should assist students in developing competence. The majority of pupils from rural areas find learning English to be a chore. Students from remote areas do not have access to the right environment and facilities to improve their communication abilities.

In rural India, the quality of English teaching and learning is deteriorating. We must address the difficulties of teaching English. Students will learn English more effectively if we use proper teaching methods. It is undeniably crucial to learn one's mother tongue. In addition to understanding their native tongue, pupils should be well-versed in the acquisition of linguistic abilities in the English language. All of the issues are interconnected.

The availability of high-quality education in rural regions would strengthen the country and put rural folks on an equal footing with city dwellers. The ability to communicate in English and to read English literature will help to bridge the gap between rural and urban teenagers. All students will have equal access to academic and employment opportunities. Obstacles to teaching and learning English will be addressed if the necessary solutions are applied. New teaching approaches should be implemented. Infrastructure such as Language Labs, Smart Boards, Internet access, high-quality textbooks, hostels, scholarships for economically disadvantaged students, and career prospects would motivate rural youngsters to study English efficiently. Both teachers and students will find the teaching and learning process enjoyable and rewarding. Students will be qualified for the work if they master the English language and literature, and will be able to fulfil huge and challenging duties and responsibilities with ease and quality.

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