

## COMMUNICATION SKILL IN ENGLISH FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**Abstract :** The awareness of the need and importance of English is felt through in Post Colonial Indian Society considering its social-economic environment. Therefore, Modern Dalit Intellectuals are keen to communicate in English. It is also an open fact that one who is well versed in English can face any competition in the Society.

**Keywords:** Socio-Economic Development, lingua franca, global language, Library Language, Plethora, polarization, Dalits

### INTRODUCTION

English has been acknowledged as the significant language that plays a vital role in socio-economic transformation at the global level. Therefore, English has become a lingua franca of most of the people in India irrespective of their Caste and Class.

### LITERATURE REVIEW

The original intention of the first government of free India was to phase out English by 1965, though **Jawaharlal Nehru** was fully aware of its utility. **Mahtma Gandhi** asserted the one can not throw the baby along with bath water. In simple words English People could leave our country but English Language should be retained for better communication at the global level. The 1960s saw language agitations in many parts of India. The Jana Sangh, the earlier avatar of the BJP, launched an anti-English agitation in 1963. Socialist politician **Ram Manohar Lohia** claimed: "The use of English is a hindrance to original thinking progenitor of inferiority feelings and the gap between the educated and uneducated public".

### PROBLEM OF THE STUDY

English acts as a window to the world. Therefore, more Indians need to know it in multilingual country and the world.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

With the grown importance of English, nation-wide thrust need to be given by the government to promote English language.

- 1) To examine the key issues involved in the development of importance of English amongst masses.
- 2) To examine challenges to be faced by the common man across India and the world.

The research study is based on the desk research and used inductive method to draw the factual conclusions, logical inferences and generalization based on secondary data.

### SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study points out significance English in socio-economic transformation at the global level.

### RESEARCH STUDY

The recent past Gujarat Chief Minister / present Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** motivates the youth in his state to acquire English Language Proficiency for bright future and thus he observes that English is the language the world understands. This is the same man who otherwise proudly wears his cultural nationalism on his sleeve, and revels in taunting all that he considers foreign.

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has allocated special funds in favour of English Language teaching in his state. Over the past few years, many other state governments have abandoned their linguistic pride and accepted the fact that English is the new vehicle of social mobility and opportunity, rather than a lingering colonial yoke. Most recently, Karnataka has decided to start teaching English from the first grade even in schools where the primary medium of instruction is Kannada.

These are welcome developments. English does have its immediate advantages – to get a job in a call centre or to acquire social and self-confidence. But there is far more at stake, as it would be short-sighted to merely focus on the advantages it offers in the job market. English is fast emerging as the world's first truly global language, with China becoming the most recent example of a major country to embrace it. The People's Daily has estimated that some 300 million Chinese are trying to learn the language of William Shakespeare and Salman Rushdie.

English acts as a window to the world. It is the language of knowledge, much as Sanskrit was many centuries ago. More Indians need to know it. While the spread in the popularity of English does raise genuine concerns about the future of Indian languages, it is up to these languages to stand on their own in English-speaking world. Acquiring proficiency in English certainly overcomes the language barriers both across India, a multilingual country and the world.

Both the Jana-Sangh and the socialists wanted Hindi to replace English in public life. That led to protests in the southern states against imminent Hindi imperialism. These protests kept English going – the perhaps laid the base for the emergence of the outsourcing industry in India two decades later. It would be worthwhile for a social scientist to correlate a state's growth rate over the past four decades with its policy towards English. But scholars around the world have widely accepted that English is the Library Language.

Yet, there is a danger that English could emerge as an elitist language, once again as Sanskrit was many centuries ago. Those who can afford to go to private schools are more likely to be proficient in it while those who go to aided municipal and village schools will be denied meaningful access to the language of the world. This is patently unfair and unjust. Hence our support for all policies aimed at teaching English to more and more children, especially going to government schools. It is clear to us that knowledge of English is useful to break social barriers.

It is not a matter of great surprise that Dalit intellectuals are often the most vocal supporters of English usage, quite in contrast to what socialists such as Ram Mohan Lohia believed. Dr. B.R.Ambedkar had no problems with English. Dalit intellectual Chandrabhan Prasad goes so far as to call English the mother goddess of the Dalits and says that all Indian languages should wither away because they represent oppressive cultures. Though we could not support such polarization, we can adopt a balanced approach where English could be accommodated amidst plethora of Indian Languages.

### CONCLUSION

People have realized that learning English will widen the horizon and opens of new avenues and scope for the young scholars and skilled workers across the World. Mastering the language is possible only when people evict parochial attitude of language chauvinism when natives are reluctant to learn this foreign language.

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