

Role of English Language in Enhancing Career Opportunities for Science and Engineering Students

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Abstract

Science and Engineering are the fields of knowledge, which have united whole world through continuous upgrading technologies. These are the knowledge systems and have brought several amenities in human life. In order to present novel idea about updated technology, one should be able to share his thoughts and interact with remaining world through efficient verbal and writing skills. Attaining good technical knowledge cannot guarantee a decent employment in industries/academic field. Thus, an important attribute for employment is proficiency in English language. The present paper deals with the role of English in students of Science and Engineering streams for enhancing their career opportunities.

Keywords: English Language Proficiency, Science and Engineering Education, Career Opportunities, Technical Communication Skills, Employability Skills

1. Introduction:

In India, a wide range of Engineering, Science and other professional courses are offered and every year a huge number of professional students get their technical degrees in different areas. For employment opportunities, the success of a student depends on the ability to communicate the thoughts/subject effectively. Thus, for a person to achieve professional success communication is the lifeline. A serious factor about unemployability of several students is that the students qualify with good grades but they lack in communication skills. This makes them unemployable. Thus,

having mere technical knowledge in a specific field of Science/Engineering without employability skills will not be sufficient for procuring the right job.

Almost all professional courses in India offer the medium of communication as English language. Thus, it becomes significant to have good knowledge of English language. Use of English language in local context is also important, as it occupies an important position in our current education system from school level up to university level. In personal and professional life, the English language plays a pivotal role to open the door of development and prosperity.

Status of English in Science and Engineering Institutions in world:

Status of English language in World in Total 195 countries

Most spoken Languages in world¹

S No	Language	% Population adopting language	No of countries adopting language	% countries
1	English	18.8	90	46.1
2	Mandarin Chinese	13.8	5	2.5
3	Hindi	7.5	10	5.1
4	Spanish	6.9	21	10.7
5	French	3.4	29	14.8
6	Bengali	3.4	3	1.5
7	Russian	3.2	4	2.0
8	Portuguese	3.2	9	4.6
9	Urdu	2.9	20	10.2
10	German	1.9	6	3.0

The above table shows that English becomes most significant language in the field of Science and Engineering.

1.English for Academic Excellence:

Science, Engineering and Technology are one of the largest fields of study, where the maximum subject knowledge is available in English language. In these fields of education, English language is used as common medium of communication throughout the world. In order to acquire knowledge from written literature and to secure job opportunities, English language is the main factor as it is medium of

instruction. The students in the field of Science and Engineering may find difficulties in grasping the concepts taught and hence to get a job for themselves after the completion of their course². Science and Engineering fields are challenging and competitive. By improving English language, a student will not only be strengthened in getting concepts but also get many job opportunities worldwide. As most of the work related to Science and Engineering education comes from Western world, thus the role of English language becomes significant. English language is being used as a common means of communication worldwide³.

The fundamental requirements for Science and Engineering professionals are communication skills. Besides their high qualification, proficiency and other achievements in academic career they should have high level of proficiency in communication⁴. As a professional, an engineer is required to communicate with the clients of diverse fields, academic level and nationality. If they fail to deliver their ideas appropriately and effectively, it may have a negative impact on their image as engineers. Science and Engineering professional should possess analytical and problem-solving skills, subject specific knowledge, quick decision-making ability, understanding of research and development, competence and confidence to work globally. The basis to achieve the above is only communication skills⁵.

2.English for Employability

Students of Science and Engineering should have enough proficiency in English language for getting a job⁶. Generally, job vacancy announcements are done in English. To understand these announcements, one should have capability to perceive the correct information given in the announcement. In further process of employability, the students have to apply for the vacant post by writing an effective letter or e-mail with their impressive CV. At this point, the quality and standard of their English language become significant. After submission of job application, they are required to appear in written examination and interview. If the written test may be of MCQ type, then the proficiency of English is required less. But the technical skills and proficiency in English matters much in one's performance in interview. The communication language of most of the companies is English. Further, if they are working in foreign or international company, then English becomes the sole medium of communication.

At the work place the students are expected to prepare various types of official documents in English. These documents should be appropriate, to the point, formal and polite. In order to avoid expulsion from company, they should maintain

communication discipline by refining the required degree of courtesy. As a Science and Engineering professional, they should be able to prepare reports, proposals and present these documents before management or at appropriate forum. At this moment the knowledge of English language provides them extra strength and confidence to present their substance before the authorities.

4. English for Progressive Career

After getting a job, the next objective of the student is the growth in his/her career. Once again, effective English language finds the way for this target⁷. Effective communication skills in English, even after getting a job helps engineering graduates pave a better path for their career. The employees get an extra edge over others who have impressive communication skills as they interact with coworkers, contribute in meetings, listen to, understand and convey information and pass instructions effectively. Thus, English language becomes an added advantage in achieving prospective and progressive career growth of an employee.

Conclusion

English language is the sole and very important language of communication at the international scene; there is no other option for Science and Engineering students to have communication in any other language. From point of view of students, it does not matter whether they are in process of study, employability or their career growth, they have to prove their capability in proficiency in English language. English can be said as vital part of academic and career growth in one's life, as the liver is the most vital organ in human body. Lack of English knowledge and communication skills may hinder the opportunities in achieving the targets in the career. Proficiency in English is the most significant characteristic in employment.

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