

Teaching English Language and Communication Skills to Rural Students in India with AI tools: Challenges and opportunities

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Abstract:

As majority of Indians live in rural areas, it's a big challenge to teach and enable the rural students in English language and communication skills. Every time some new technological breakthrough happens, it becomes a tough challenge to rural students to enable themselves and their learning skills according to the new technological perspectives. With all the existing challenges they have in learning English language and communication skills, they also need to enhance new skills according to the trends. This paper focuses on the real challenges of rural students in India in enhancing their English language skills and communication skills to compete with the urban students and reach the expectations of the industry. The recent outbreak of technology, Artificial Intelligence is throwing challenges to rural students and also creating opportunities to enhance their language skills has par with the urban students.

Key Words: Artificial Intelligence, Digital Divide, Educational Technology, AI tools, Digital Literacy Rural-Urban Differences.

Introduction:

The integration of artificial intelligence into education system has made significant changes and development in the recent past. It has completely reshaped the learning and teaching of English language and communication skills. Every technological innovation has its own positive and negative impacts on the society. India is still striving hard to make all Indians digital literates despite the geographical and demographical differences. A country like India which is trying to fill the bridge between rural and urban areas in updating technological perspectives equally is genuinely facing a tough challenge of adapting to new technological endeavours like artificial intelligence to rural and urban areas equally.

Providing the required technological support and enabling the rural students reach the needs and requirements of the industry is still a challenge to our country. Many rural in areas in India have still minimum exposure to English language and communication skills. To compete with the world, India continues to face substantial barriers in acquiring the employability skills of the world market. The urban students of India have made their mark in grabbing the opportunities in the world market with their English language and communication skills. To prepare the rural students also to that extent, we need to provide the required technological support at the bottom level of the education system. In Indian context, English proficiency continues to play a very vital role in education and employment. The limited exposure of rural students to the digital enrolment intensifies and challenges the results and opportunities in academic and professional advancement. At this junction, artificial intelligence is throwing challenges and opportunities to enhance their language and communication skills. A country like India which is very adaptive to all the recent trends and technological conceptions is eager to be benefited with all the technological advancements. As artificial intelligence has made revolutionary changes in teaching perspectives in every subject has also made significant impact in teaching English language and communication skills too. The role of artificial intelligence in education has been widely studied over the past few years.

Methodology:

This paper Makes qualitative research to investigate the challenges and opportunities of artificial intelligence in enhancing English language and communication skills of rural students in India. After a thorough reading and observation of various teaching Methods in Indian rural and urban areas, a proper study is done how artificial Intelligence help Indian rural students in enhancing their vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, sentence formation and fluency of the students. With limited resources and technological support in teaching English language skills is now completely influenced by the recent approaches and opportunities with AI applications. With speech recognition technology AI has completely redefined their learning method of English language.

Role of Artificial Intelligence in English language teaching:

Artificial intelligence can play a vital role in enhancing the English language and communication skills of rural students. AI driven applications and tools can really analyse and assess students learning patterns, their strengths and learning strategies. Indian rural students are basically shy and nervous to interact with others and get the doubts clarified even from the teachers. Students of such kind can really take the

support of artificial intelligence to test themselves and correct their grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation. AI provides various puzzles quizzes, exercises and correction of sentences to strengthen students' vocabulary and grammar on their own. For example, some adaptive learning platforms adjust themselves according to the levels of the learners and their needs. AI Powered chatbots, virtual tutors can help rural students online or offline. In addition to the mobile applications, AI can support with various tools like Duolingo which uses adaptive algorithms to adjust lessons according to the learners' progress. Similarly, Hello English, an Indian application which integrates AI based assessments with bilingual support allowing learners from rural areas to transition smoothly from their regional language to English.

Challenges and limitations for Indian Rural Students:

Despite many magnificent online and offline computer-based AI tools are available Artificial Intelligence has got its own limitations and challenges for rural students. The practical problems like poor internet connectivity, limited access to computers and smartphones. More importantly faculty with knowledge on AI tools challenge their learning strategies of rural Indian students. India is still striving hard to provide the basic infrastructure and requirements to rural Indians. The bridge between the urban and rural students still exists in many areas of the country. The urban students still dominate the rural students in terms of language, technology and employability skills.

Another practical problem is to enhance or enable the existing teaching faculty to the latest trends of AI. The existing teaching fraternity do have the conservative mindset and not very adaptable to recent trends which is a big challenge in those areas. The availability of various tools and applications is another challenge to rural students to decide which is the right platform for their enhancement of skills. Guiding the rural students towards the right destination is still a challenge to the teachers and the experts. We need to have a genuine testing agency to streamline all the AI tools and applications which are dependable on genuine. The AI based web applications may collect all the data from the rural students and may misuse it for other reasons like marketing and online platforms. The digital literacy in is still very low and needs to be upgraded. It is equally important to tune the minds of students to utilize Internet technology and AI for the right purposes.

Opportunities and Threats:

In many rural areas in India AI can clearly create wonders without the assistance of any qualified language teacher and trainer. At the same time, this Artificial intelligence creates wide range of opportunities to the far in the corners.

The rural teachers must be equipped with digital literacy skills pedagogical knowledge the effective use of AI tools through regular workshops online courses and various programs. From the teacher-centred and student-centred language teaching, AI can make them self-centred. Excessive use of AI can invite troubles. Without proper grammar knowledge the students could not identify whether the AI is rightly guiding them or not. The availability of various AI tools and applications is still expensive to rural students. The government Policies need to work on cost cutting of these applications and made available to rural students for wide usage.

Conclusion:

Artificial intelligence has become a powerful tool to transform the teaching of English language and communication skills especially to rural areas students more accessible. The fruits of the technology must reach the of the remote areas. The government, educators and others involved in pedagogical areas need to focus on enhancing the skills of rural teachers and students to needs and requirements of the industry. The introvert rural students can effectively utilize the AI tools to enhance their language and communication skills and become confident to attend various interviews and get employed. AI has potential to reduce the gap between urban and rural students because technology has no discrimination or differences.

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