

## **THE NEED TO DEVELOP SOFT SKILLS AMONG THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Teaching in the 21st century is a huge challenge and every school has to cope with all the changes that occur within society and be, at the same time, an enjoyable place for the students to develop their skills to live and function in the 21st century society. This paper shows how Task-Based Learning (TBL) can be a valuable option in the foreign language classroom nowadays enabling the students to be active, interact with each other, learn by doing and develop their language knowledge through communicative tasks, replacing the traditional, teacher-centred lessons. At the same time, this article aims to show how doing tasks has advantages in terms of the cognitive development while learning a foreign language, how these tasks also affect the human brain as well as discuss the importance of bringing neuroscience and scientific evidence into the classroom context.

**Keywords:** Communication, English, language, students , Task-Based Learning (TBL).

### **Introduction**

As it is used in communication, internet communication tools began to use in education especially in English language learning. New trends and technologies have supplemented English teaching in authenticity and literacy such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills of students. English is the only valid language that can be understood by everyone all around the world. Students learn faster and easier than before because of the use of technology in schools. If they are trained during their school years, they have the chance of becoming experts in technology. It is proved by the researches that have been done; early beginnings are always beneficial. Learning English through the web and using new trends in education in schools make students willing to learn the language. The aim of this study is to review technology in English learning activities and internet communication tools which are being used lately by instructors and learners. The study was conducted on the base of literature survey. Also, this study looks at Web-based English language learning tools, and tries to give information about internet communication tools also it is mentioned that how the teachers or instructors make educational environment more enjoyable. It is quite clear that

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#### Review of Literature

A.K. Gopi Krishna (2014) says, "The 21st century demands the explicit integration of learning strategies, digital competences and career abilities." Schools in general, and EFL classrooms in particular, should provide students with practices and processes focused on acquiring and developing, among other things, creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, self-direction, and cross-cultural skills. In this regard, the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (2007) argues for the explicit integration of learning and innovation skills, information, media and digital literacy skills, and life and career skills. Despite its relevance, a basic review of Colombian scholarly publications suggests that little has been done in order to infuse the EFL class with some of these ideas. Consequently, this paper seeks to inform and motivate Colombian EFL teachers to incorporate meaningful and intellectually stimulating alternatives that allow students not just to learn English, but more importantly to understand complex perspectives, use multiple media and technologies, and work creatively with others.

According to Deepika Dabke (2014), "Educational Technology in broader terms mean to organize the knowledge for the achievement of purposes, or making tool/technique. In this fast changing world, the education plays a major role in empowering students to engage with challenges". The 21st century is rapidly changing one in every dimension of human (economically, socially and technologically). Due to the rapid changes complex problems are faced by educationists, policy makers, managers and teachers as well. Teachers of 21st century have to create students of 21st century with soft skills. The 21st century teachers need teaching skills content mastery as well as integrating teaching with technology. The teacher development programs are much important. The impact of good teaching is increasingly cited as a major determinant of economic well-being of society. A useful and productive system of teacher compensation functions as an important lever for attracting well-qualified and highly motivated people to the teaching profession. The quality of teachers determines the quality of education and linked with nation's development. With the emerging technologies, the teaching-learning is transforming from teacher-centered, lecture based to student-centered learning environment. In this I have discussed global characteristics of 21st century teacher as well as with reference to India.

Schulz (2011) asserts, "The 21st Century employers are looking for graduates who possess soft skills that include responsibility, self-confidence, social and communication skills, flexibility, team-spiritedness, good work attitude, self-motivation and self-management. Many skills learned through project-based learning are highly sought by today's employers including the ability to work well with others, handle interpersonal conflicts, make thoughtful

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decisions, as well as practise and solve complex problems”. A project based learning (PBL) approach was undertaken through a project assigned in a Workplace Communication course, to incorporate these soft skills. The project work assigned required students to investigate a workplace problem in a real workplace setting. This present study was conducted to identify the relevant soft skills acquired when undergoing the project work. It also aims to find out how PjBL has equipped students with the related soft skills in the 21st century workplace environment. In view of this, it is evident that project-based learning facilitates the growth of learners in acquiring the aforementioned skills.

Hafsah Jan (2014) states, “This research paper highlights the importance of English communication for engineering students from rural areas and the problems faced by them during academic as well as professional life and its possible remedies”. Majority of the students in engineering colleges are from rural areas. They do possess intelligence necessary for getting admission for higher education but they lag behind in the English communication competence. So, during academics and career they face a lot of problems. To be successful in studies and campus interviews, GD’s, it is important to achieve English communication competence. The teachers and students need to make integrated efforts which include initiative and active participation of teachers and students in teaching – learning method comprising question answering session, Role plays, GD’s and Language Lab session.

Mane Varsharani Shamrao (2012) says, “As it is used in communication, internet communication tools began to use in education especially in English language learning”. New trends and technologies have supplemented English teaching in authenticity and literacy such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills of students. English is the only valid language that can be understood by everyone all around the world. Students learn faster and easier than before because of the use of technology in schools. If they are trained during their school years, they have the chance of becoming experts in technology. It is proved by the researches that have been done; early beginnings are always beneficial. Learning English through the web and using new trends in education in schools make students willing to learn the language. The aim of this study is to review technology in English learning activities and internet communication tools which are being used lately by instructors and learners. The study was conducted on the base of literature survey. Also, this study looks at Web-based English language learning tools, and tries to give information about internet communication tools also it is mentioned that how the teachers or instructors make educational environment more enjoyable. It is quite clear that English has become a necessity today. We need it in different fields of life. Web based technologies and powerful internet connections provide various new possibilities and latest trends for teachers and students.

Teaching of English Language

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With experience of teaching English to young students in different colleges, so many problems of rural area engineering students have been observed. It highlights the importance of learning English as a key language of international business. It tells that English can be learnt by the students from rural areas by integrating different methods of language acquisition. Importance of English language English language is the current lingua franca of the international business, technology, aviation, diplomacy, banking computing medicines engineering and tourism. About one fifth of people all over the world know more or less about English. It is spoken by 1.8 billion people in the world and the number 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 English. English plays an important role in the world. Most people in the world agree with what Alexander V. Sandoval claims in his essay, 'The Importance of English' on "English is becoming the world's language of the 21st century". Most of the world's population, about 70% speak English or know it. And more than 80% of all stored information in the world is written in English or translated into it. Foreign language skills, and in particular the English are a good tool in work, school, on vacation, when building a career or promote your own business. The man who speaks fluent in English, will not get lost in the world where there are people."

The irony is even when outlay 10-12 crucial years of their life learning from I to +2, most of the scholars stay unarticulated and therefore the same heritage of illiterate learners in English is passed on to the universities and therefore the most affected ones square measure the scholars of various streams. Moreover, the upper authorities continuously expect sensible results and lecturers square measure caught within the mire as whether or not to finish information or improve the English language of the learners. it's astonishing to notice that the English language has won 'global status' or 'International Language', and every one the proof suggests that the position of English as a world language goes to become stronger however we've got to swallow this bitter pill that teaching spoken English to the Indian students has remained a serious challenge to the language lecturers for ages. varied obstacles relating to sizable amount of scholars stuffed in little room, rural background, lack of confidence, lack of motivation, barrier of hesitation, lack of reading habits, phobic disorder within the minds of learners, inappropriate programme that don't fulfill the necessities of English learners, lack of feedback and lack of trained and qualified lecturers square measure some vital factors that produces the whole method of implementing quality education futile. Moreover, the importance of teaching English so as to satisfy the ever growing demands of West Germanic is additionally stressed.

Current challenges before English teachers in gift day ELT would even be haunted. They ways that within which students will place their learning into apply in regular use to satisfy their sensible demands through effective communication skills excluding gaining command over West Germanic would be even are highlighted. We'd like to bridge the gap between

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'haves' and 'have-not' or 'urban' and therefore the 'rural'. Within the earlier days, English was rather like a library language however currently that notion has been challenged these days. At the moment the challenges before the English language lecturers in Republic of India square measure various and it's necessary for them to progress consequently to fulfill the strain of the day.

In today's world, the world unfold of English is "unprecedented and unparalleled". English has become the well-liked language of alternative for international communication in an exceedingly type of domains, so gaining the standing as an inter-language. As such, English language skills are recognized in Korean Peninsula as essential skills to accumulate so as to achieve success in an exceedingly globalized society.

### Conclusion

English is the biggest field of study in the world. First of all English is a tool that significantly affect engineering students in academic life. While most of the theories in engineering are taught in English, it requires having good English communication competence. In academic life, engineering students have to deal with the countless English lectures, tutorials, laboratories, project reports and papers most engineering professors in various universities are also conducting lectures in English. The most convenient source of information i.e. Internet provides most of the information in English. During the job seeking process in interviews, GD's, it is but of crucial importance to achieve mastery in English proficiency. After securing the job they are required to work in groups since their task seldom be solved by an individual. So, being an engineer requires co-operating and communicating with different people from different part of the world. English is used as the working language on large extent. In order to co-ordinate with the colleagues, engineers have to speak fluent English. So, English communication competence plays an important role in the academic life and career of engineering students.

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#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The author, Parupalli Srinivas Rao, has a vast experience of teaching English at various levels. He has been specialized in ELT and has authored 10 books and published several research papers related to ELT in various international journals. He has attended several national and international ELT conferences and also presented some papers in them. He has also attended many webinars organized by renowned British based international ELT training institutions such as Cambridge English, Oxford University Press, Macmillan English, Pearson ELT, English First, IATEFL, British Council and American based Ed Web (USA).

He has been on the Editorial board for twenty well-reputed international journals. He has also done several prestigious projects including a project done for the National Council for Teacher Education(NCTE), Government of India and another one for King Faisal University, Saudi Arabia. He has attended several in-service training programs in ELT. He has taught English in India, the Republic of Maldives and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for 27 years. At present, he is working as Lecturer in English at English Language Centre, King Faisal University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He is very much interested in research activities and

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The author did his M. A. (English) from Osmania University in 1991. He also completed his PG Diploma in Teaching English (PGDTE) from CIEFL / EFL University and later he did B. Ed., M. Ed. and M. Phil. from Osmania University, Hyderabad. In 1999, he did PG Diploma in Functional English from Andhra University. He did Cambridge CELTA in London, UK, in the year 2008. He also completed two regular onsite ELT courses, namely, Pronunciation for Language Teachers and Teaching Grammar in Context from University of Edinburgh in Scotland in 2008. At present, he is pursuing his Ph. D. in ELT.