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IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH LABORATORY IN DEVELOPING COMMUNICATION

SKILLS OF STUDENTS FROM RURAL AREA

ABSTRACT

Few years ago, the role of an English teacher is to teach English lessons and explain the lessons in regional language. But in this modern era, he/she is assigned to play an active role of a diagnostician, counselor, communication expert and also a soft skills trainer. A language teacher can play all these roles in the English laboratory. They can motivate the rural students in lab sessions by teaching personality development, interpersonal skills and soft skills which are the essential factors to mould the students from rural area into a perfect professional. The devices used in the English laboratory will stimulate their eyes and ears to acquire the language quickly and easily.

Key words: linguistic fluency, team tasks, complex nature, industry ready

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Now a day, English language is the common medium of communication in most of the sectors. Practical knowledge is more important than theoretical knowledge. Most of the students from rural area know how to read and write English language. When they are asked to speak, they fumble for words and they hesitate to face the audience. The reason is their background, basic education and complex nature. English laboratory plays a vital role in developing communication skills of the students from rural area in many ways.

Few years ago, the role of an English teacher is to teach English lessons and explain the lessons in regional language. But in this modern era, he/she is assigned to play an active role of a diagnostician, counselor, communication expert and also a soft skills trainer. A language teacher can play all these roles in the English laboratory. They can motivate the rural students in lab sessions by teaching personality development, interpersonal skills and soft skills which are the essential factors to mould the students from rural area into a perfect professional. The devices used in the English laboratory will stimulate their eyes and ears to acquire the language quickly and easily.

Students from rural area can acquire linguistic fluency with the help of English laboratory. Frequent usage of the laboratory will make them learn about the nuances of English language. If a teacher teaches dos and don'ts of group discussion and the body language to be followed at the time of personal interview in the class room, it may be like a drawing in the air for the students from rural area. If that is shown in the audio visual format to them, they can understand the concepts easily. This is one of the best ways in developing the communication

skills of the students from rural area as the language reaches them through their senses. In English laboratory students can listen to the pre-recorded audio or video of the native speaker or of a linguistic expert and also they can learn pronunciation, accent, stress and all other phonetic aspects of English language.

The basic education on the foreign language is not sufficient and most of the students of rural area learn the language in improper way. English laboratory act as the best source in correct them and to overcome the shortfall in acquiring the language. In English laboratory every student gets the opportunity to be taken care of as well as they can be monitored and evaluated closely. They can expose themselves in the world of communication with the help of English laboratory with in a short span of time. Their hesitation to speak in front of a stranger, fear over the stage and lack of vocabulary power can be eradicated in short period by using English laboratory with proper guidance.

English laboratory is a room which consists of versatile platforms to learn and to teach. Hence the teacher's motivation is increased as well as the interest of the students to learn the language gets increased. Because the learners interest is more important to improve the communication skills as most of the rural area students did show interest to attend the communication skills class in the initial stage. As there variety of activities is offered in English laboratory, this makes the teacher feel more independent. In a rural area student centered environment, the teacher needs to teach practically with more and simple tasks and versatile activities; the English laboratory plays a vital role in developing communication skills and to make the students from rural area industry ready.

English laboratory is meant to practice everything that is learnt in the class room and this is purely a practice session rather than a practical session. Most of the students from rural area thought this session as a leisure hour and did not get involved in their initial stage. Motivation from teacher, simple tasks, involving activities, team tasks and awareness on the importance of communication skills through audio visual aids will make them involve themselves in communication skills acquiring sessions. The goal of the English laboratory session is to make the rural students to get good command over the language. The students can listen the native speakers, see the body language of them, know their behavior, dress code and their pronunciation in English Laboratory. They also can record their voice and video in the laboratory and relay it which will make them overcome the mistakes made by them. Through their proper practice in the English laboratory the students from rural sides can surely attain communication skills in English language as like the native speaker and they can wipe out their complex nature as they are inferior to the native speakers. In English laboratory they acquire the language initially by listening, then it will be tried out in speaking, and then it will be practiced in reading and at last in writing. The pattern clearly shows the laboratory certainly helps the rural students to learn the second language as how they learnt their first language.

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