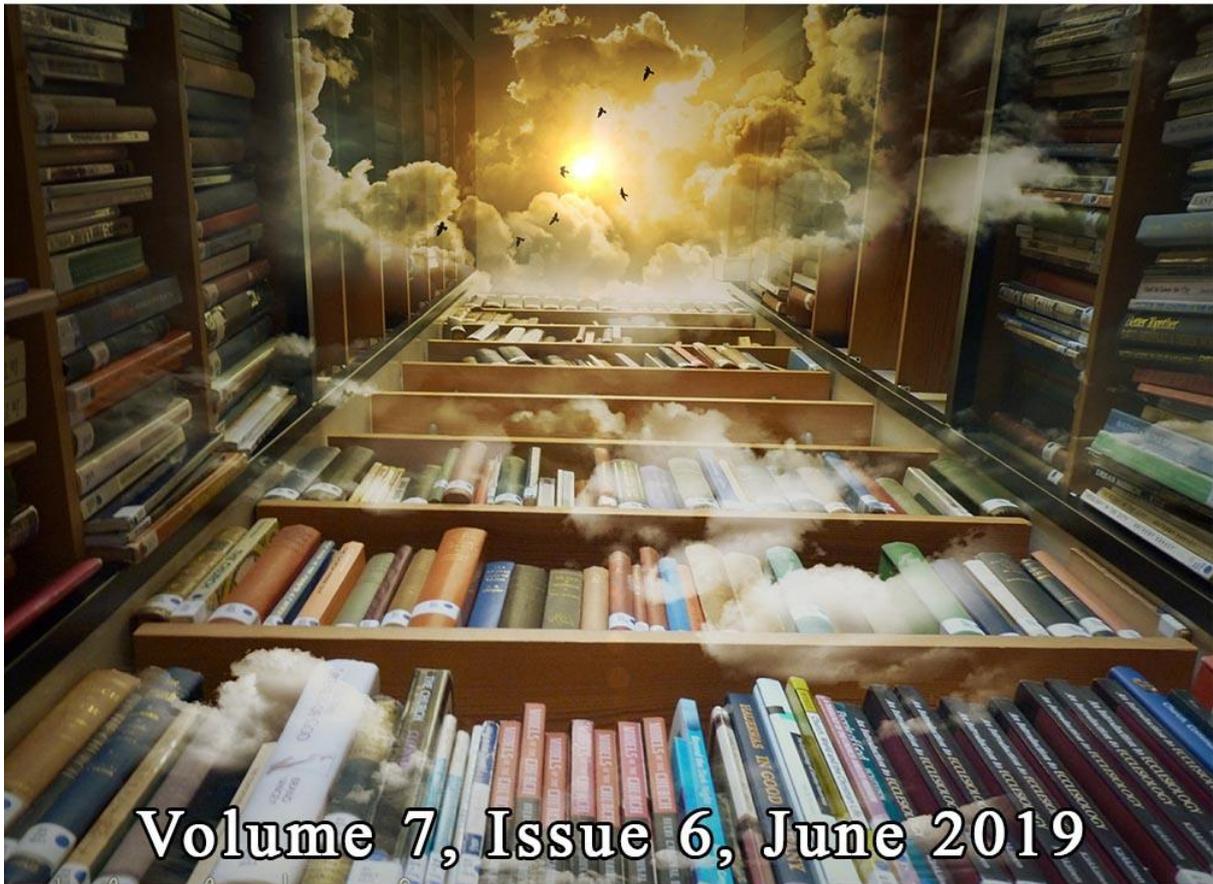


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English Language in India: Role and Significance in Administrative System and Educational Development

Abstract

In the present era, each and everything has been digitalized and is available on internet whether it is in form of Education, Research, Business, Science, Media, Tourism etc; all of these content are mostly available in English language. Thus, its ever increasing significance cannot be denied in such a fast developing world. English as a language as well as in the form of literature has contributed significantly in the economic development of India. Knowledge of the language has a positive impact on relations within a country as well as international relations. India is on the path to become one of the biggest global forces and English enacts and will continue to enact an important role in the growth of individuals

within its society. This article aims to throw light on the role of English language in India's development and its contributions in various sectors and fields of the society.

Keywords: English language, Literature, Economic development, Education, Research

Introduction

In the present scenario, English language is emerged as the global language. Currently, it is the third most used language in the world with more than one billion speakers. A large number of people across the globe use English either as their native, second or foreign language. Originally it was the language of England but due to the historical effects it has become the primary or secondary language of many countries such as United States, Australia, Canada, and India. Currently, it is the official language in almost sixty-seven countries. The constant need and demand of the language throughout the world has made English the universal language of Communication, Business, Technology, Education, Science, Media and Tourism and so on. In this technological era majority of the content is available only in English language such as research papers, books for higher studies, literature, internet content etc. Working knowledge of English language can create many opportunities in national as well as international markets. Therefore, for a developing country like India, it has become need of the hour to master the English language in order to survive in this competitive world.

English in India

English language was first introduced in India by British people during the period of colonisation. It came to India in the seventeenth century with the East India Company. They introduced the language mainly for the trade and administrative work. They wanted some

high caste Indian people to work for them as mediators to administer India. So in order to fulfil the desired requirement they started teaching the language to the local population of the country. When the East India Company became the political power they started incorporating the language in administrative and government related works. In the year 1813, Christian missionaries came to India and they established some English schools there. Initially, they opened primary schools in which Hindi and Vernacular language was the medium of instruction and later they opened some English medium high schools in India. In 1857, British rulers established some universities in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras regions of India that were based on British modals which emphasis on English language. The social, cultural and technological development also started right from there onwards. Gradually, Indians started reading various kinds of literature from all around the world. In this way English language got exposure in India and many people get in touch with it. By that time Indians were more exposed to literature, technology and higher studies that they also started writing their literary works in English language. Thus, English language which was initially introduced by British for their own selfish reasons later became beneficial for Indian people in order to keep pace with the present globalized world.

Post-Independence, lots of discussions and arguments has been carried out throughout the nation regarding the place of English language in independent India. As it was the language of British rulers, the first reaction was to dispose English from India. But many people from all over India demanded to continue the English language as they were in touch with the language for a long period of time. In those circumstances Hindi has been made the Official language of the nation and English has appointed as the Associate Official Language of the nation only for fifteen years after independence. But due to its widespread use and demand throughout the nation it continued to maintain the same status till date.

Currently, India is the second largest English spoken country after the United States with more than 125 million speakers and the number is increasing day by day. Over the years, it has paved its own path towards the progress and today it serves the purpose of second language of the nation. After Hindi it is the most popular and commonly used language in India. It is the main language used in all the legal and government work. It is one of the majorly used languages for international and inter-state communications both formally and informally. It is the standard language of business and trade, media and tourism, science and technology etc. Majority of the newspapers and magazines are also published in English language in India. It is also the chief language in our Indian Education System and taught as a second language in most of the schools and demand for the English medium schools are also increasing now a days. It has increasingly become the part and parcel of every existing field.

Role of English Language in Various Fields

Today, India has a remarkable place on world map along with all the powerful nations because of its rich culture, economic, social and technological development. English as a language plays vital role in the development of a country through contributing in various areas of society. Here we are discussing some of the areas:

International Relations

As we all know that India is a growing nation so it is essential for it to maintain cordial relations with other nations of the world which can only be achieved through effective communication. Since, India is a member of many universal organisations it is the best platform for exchange of views with other powerful nations of the world. Generally, all of the conferences, seminars and trade related conversations regarding these organisations take place in English language as it is a global language. It is also the official language in almost

sixty - seven countries thus it becomes easier to communicate in English language. All the international agreements and treaties are framed in English Language. Even in the government official documents, legal documents, international trade and commerce related documents, English language is widely used. The governing bodies that monitor the international affairs also work in English language. It is thus a significant medium for maintaining international relations and business.

Communication

India is a country with diverse cultures, religions and languages. People come from different background and speak different regional languages. Therefore, English plays a significant role of a juncture by connecting various natives of different regional dialects. It is a powerful and effective medium of communication for the foreign as well as domestic tourists visiting India. Every state has its own language and English can act as a common language for discussions and generating solutions to the national problems and helps in finding a common base within the differences.

The Internet has emerged as the tool for connectivity within Indians as well as between Indians and rest of the world which allows communicating by sharing ideas and discussing social, economic and political issues relevant to the country. Digital media is widely getting popular in India and all across the world. The popularity of social media websites and apps has made the global communication easier and faster. The language used on these media is generally English. It acts as a platform which provides access to the vast information from the rest of the world and help people to form social and informal groups at global level. This growing network of communication leads to development of different businesses which in turn helps in developing our Indian economy globally. It is also helpful

in spreading our ancient art forms and valuable culture across the globe through social media platforms which cannot be possible without English language.

Science and Information Technology

Over the years, the field of science and technology has evolved and is continuously upgrading. The latest scientific inventions from various countries can be launched in India and vice versa only through the help of English language as it is most popular language used in technological field. Therefore English language has become inevitable for India. The IT sector of India is the fastest growing sector among all the other sectors. In this field most of the companies are multi-national. They have most of the projects and conversations in foreign countries; therefore in order to communicate effectively the knowledge of English is required. Besides this, all the latest technologies are now at our doorsteps but in order to assess these technologies we need to enhance English language skills. Most of the prevailing computer programming languages are also made up of English keywords.

Employment Generation

The knowledge of English is an important employability skill within India and outside to be employed as well as to move higher in one's professional life. The companies in India consider the candidates ability or inability in fluency in English speaking as one of the major selection criterion. The candidates with productive English communication skills are given more preference over the qualified candidates lacking in English communication skills; the reason being employees are expected to be proficient in English because English is used for official communication such as during meetings, presentations, training, conferences, reports etc. The organisations are hiring multi-cultural and multi-linguistic workforce, English

language therefore connects people by default. English language acts as boon for the candidates seeking employment opportunities in the foreign countries.

Education and Research

With the globalisation, the Indian Education System is also changing in the form of skills that are being imparted. Presently, Indian Education System has realised the increasing importance of English language. Hence it is focusing on teaching English right from the primary school level. Recently in the year 2017, a group formed of Secretaries on education has recommended that English should be made a compulsory subject in all schools and there should be at least one Government-run English-medium school in each of the 6,612 blocks in the country. English opens the door of opportunities for people who aspire to study abroad. It is also a great medium for higher education studies both in India as well as foreign countries.

Generally, most of the research and scholarly work whether it is scientific or descriptive is being carried out in English language. Also, the literature and secondary sources for data collection is conveniently available in English. Thus, the contribution of English in Education and research will lead to a solid foundation for upcoming generation and the revenue generated from this sector will help in building Indian economy and also will strengthen the society.

Literature

Due to historical events occurred in India, Indians are given easy access to master English language and numerous opportunities for advancement in the field of literature. Many Indian writers and poets such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Toru Dutt, Sarojini Naidu, Arundhati Roy, Mulk Raj Anand, Anita Desai, Jhumpa Lahiri has contributed in creative and rich literature of India. Many of them have won prestigious international awards such as

Booker Prize, Pulitzer Prize etc. After United States and United Kingdom, India is ranked as third largest English book publishing country. The youth of India prefers English literature more over other language's literature. In this way English literature is playing a crucial role in enhancing Indian literature on global level. Lately, the Indian literature in English is broadening its reach at mass level. The literature is having its social impact as well. The number of readers and writers both are increasing in the country in spite of invasion of technology in literature. The publishing business has a significant contribution in Indian economy.

Travel and Tourism

Travel and tourism forms a large market in India. According to Indian Tourism and Hospitality Industry Report, February 2019, the total contribution by travel and tourism sector to India's GDP is expected to increase up to Rs. 32.05 trillion in 2028. In terms of travel and tourism's total contribution to GDP in 2017, India has been ranked seventh amongst 184 countries. This sector is third largest foreign exchange earner for India. The role of English language proficiency is prominent in Indian Tourism Industry. It is one of the major recruitment criterions in this field. It is helpful in global as well in domestic tourist communication as it is the universal language of communication. Travel and tourism linked in a way to the hotel industry which is also increasing now a days. Here also English language is the main language of communication and fluency in it is required to survive smoothly in this field. Hence, tourism and hotel industry contribute on a large scale to the social and economic development of the country.

Social Lifestyle

English language has generated high aspirations and desires among Indians that has influenced their lifestyle. Studying in English medium schools has become a status symbol in the Indian society. This has resulted in budding growth of educational institutions and coaching institution that promise to increase English language proficiency skills. The market of CD's and DVD's containing English language tutorial is increasing day by day. Parents are eager to make their children proficient in English over their mother tongue. This trend has given birth to increased consumerism and adoption of western lifestyle which in turn has affected the Indian economy.

Future of English in India

English can be used to develop Indian society culturally and socially so that India can compete with the best in the world of mind and matter. English in future will open great avenues in the global world. The language has been gradually altered according to our culture and traditions. It can therefore be called a flexible language in Indian context. The present young generation of India are more inclined towards English language and the future generation is going to take it to another level. Future endeavour of English in India is going to be really high and the speaker strength of English language will reach the great heights in the upcoming years. The knowledge of English language will surely breakdown caste, religion and gender inequalities. It also breaks down barriers between states and nations. The contribution of English in the above discussed fields will definitely take the Indian economy to greater heights on world map and will positively affect on social and cultural level.

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