

## Strategies for Communication Skills for Engineering Students from Rural Background

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### ABSTRACT

Today, people from all corners of the society are demanding a more professional and acceptable education to meet the present day globalization. Indeed, the lure towards **engineering education** is creating ample opportunities for the students with **rural backdrop**. After completing twelve semesters in engineering education, the students shall be self-sufficient to develop skills of employment and self-reliance. In today's India, without English, a student cannot enter the sophisticated world of science and technology. Further, in the present global context, it is felt that, teaching English language for engineering graduates is of paramount importance. Undoubtedly, English language has evolved as a highly refined communication medium for the people in almost all the countries of the world and increasingly being used for multiple purposes. It can be opined that, English language has become a window on the world and gained crucial role in every aspect of developmental activity of any country. However, English language teaching in engineering educational institutions in the country for both the teachers and the learners have much to be derived. Different teaching techniques and methodologies should be adopted to enable them to communicate in better English. This helps them to develop all round personality. Further, it was reported at many cases, the engineering students with rural background are lacking the knowledge of English. Hence, **the strategies** are necessary to develop their English. In the present paper, some of the strategies to improve English of engineering students with rural background were proposed.

**Key words:** English Language; Engineering Education; Rural Background; Employability Skills.

### INTRODUCTION

In this sustained real world, training for the students help to polish their skills. On completion of professional course, students should step in to their career with confidence and should be able to perform as per the expectations of their employing organizations. It is known that, modern HR selection processes are competency based, and there is a dire necessity for creating programs that help the students gain insight into much needed skills and expected attitudes. The present day class room work provides them with the necessary knowledge. Various special training programs should undertake throughout the four years of professional degree, a student stays with the institution, provide them with opportunities to learn and practice industry demanded skills.

### BACKGROUND STUDY

Government of India wants to improve the overall academic achievement and create human resources that can meet the growing

needs of our Nation as well as be in a position to cater to the needs of the world. It is a known fact that Indian graduates are contributing in the fields of ICT among others, throughout the world. India plans to strengthen its position and be a knowledge society capable of catering to the knowledge needs of the world. While the number of students graduating is very impressive, there is a need to upgrade their skills to suit the needs of the IT and ITES industry. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has many initiatives described below to meet this requirement. Further, Andhra Pradesh being the fifth largest state in the country with its burgeoning growth and development is heading towards creating potential to breed Information Technology. Biotechnology, Automobile Industry, Textile and Leather, Agriculture, Handicrafts, Dairy and Animal Husbandry, Tourism etc. At present the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states houses 847 Engineering Colleges, 53 Medical Colleges, Universities like Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Osmania

University, Hyderabad Central University, Andra University, Nagarjuna University, Sri Venkateshwara University, Indian Institute Technology and more than 1000 P.G & U.G Colleges which corroborate the fact that Education tops the priority list in the state. Today, the technical education is undergoing metamorphic changes. Hence, it is desirable for the institutions offering the technical education to adopt some of the innovative methods of teaching – learning methods to enhance the quality of rural background students. Further, these techniques may replace the traditional teaching methods, thus making the technical education more effective and provides some of the technical solutions for teaching methodologies.

### **SOME OF THE STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

In this section, it is discussed some of the methods to improve the communication skills to improve the employability of students from rural background.

#### ***Attitude & Assertiveness***

These qualities vary from student to student with respect to their communication skills, vocabulary, accent and accuracy. Hence, engineering teachers should map the student according to their abilities and train them accordingly.

#### ***Personal Grooming***

By providing the quality professional education, a student is supposed to qualities the activities such as body language, maintenance etc., which are helpful to interact with higher authorities in a smooth manner.

#### ***Interpersonal and Team Player Skills***

A strong emphasis should be given to the students to enhance their interpersonal rapport and achieve common goal without losing their individual identity.

#### ***Corporate and Business Etiquettes***

It is very essential to expose the students to corporate ethics, differences in various cultures that leads to the success in achieving the goals and targets. This will helpful to students in understanding industry trends and developments.

#### ***Effective Presentation Skills***

It is observed that, one has to gather the relevant information, compile and organize in

a systematic way to present the contents in an effective way. Especially, training in this skill set is necessary for the engineering students with rural backdrop.

#### ***Group Discussions***

There is a dire necessity for the students to improve their ability to work in a team along with their communication skills, leadership qualities and creativeness. Hence, the professional students are supposed to learn the techniques and participate in group discussion activities in their regular curriculum. This will create opportunities to develop teamwork and displaying various personality traits.

#### ***Aptitude Tests***

It is observed that the present day selection process of campus recruitment is based on aptitude tests and students will be screened based on their performance. Aptitude tests are helpful to find out whether the student has natural ability to solve the problems in a particular type of work/job. Especially, engineering students are required to practice some of the designed model tests to assess themselves in logical reasoning, thinking and performance.

#### ***Soft Skill Tests***

These tests are meant for testing knowledge/skills in different components such as communication, team building, leadership, group discussions, time management, interview skills and personal skills which are some of the essential characteristics of engineering students. This helps the student community to visualize their planning for on/off campus placements.

#### ***Tests on Computer Knowledge***

By conducting the computer based tests, the students can improve their thought process and skill set which are more helpful in better understanding of technology. As a result, this criterion will reinforce the students with changing needs of present industry. Apart from the aspects given above, engineering students with rural background should also be assessed in Personal Grooming, Interpersonal and Team Player Skills, Mother Tongue Influence (MTI) Reduction, Paralinguistic Communication, Situational English, Improving Pronunciation, Voice Modulation and Diction. Further, they should be trained

in HR Skills to face the interviews in efficient manner.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The professional student will not only enhance the characteristics in engineering education but also the academic focus and the following outcomes were expected.

- The student will enhance his/her employable skills.
- The methods illustrated will provide opportunities for socialization.
- Promote cooperation and coordination among the student community with outstanding programs and activities.
- Provide leadership opportunities that lead to personal growth, development and progress.

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