



## English Language Teaching at Upper Primary Level. (ELT)

September, 2011



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### Introduction:-

In December 1999, the government of Maharashtra chalked out a new policy for the teaching of English. . The govt. of Maharashtra decided to provide for the teaching / learning of English along with the mother tongue from STD. I. It was decided to implement this decision from June. 2000. The revised syllabus of English for std. V to VIII. (Upper Primary Level) has been introduced in the academic year 2004-2005. .. This syllabus has been designed with the objective of enhancing the students' level of achievement in English at the school level. It is expected to prepare a child completing primary education to handle English adequately wherever needs it in later life. The syllabus provides for the revision & reinforcement of the language skills acquired in the previous classes & also seeks further development of these language skills through a number of new tasks & activities

### Need of the study :-

The various institutions, agencies & MSCERT connected with school education have acquainted the classroom teachers with the objectives of teaching English. under the changed circumstances. MSCERT has conducted SMART-PT training programme at different levels. This ambitious programme aimed at a revolutionary transformation in the strategies of teaching & the fundamental approach with a view to ensure better learning outcomes. There are different resource centres like DIET, DRG, BRC & CRC. All these are helping the teachers in effective teaching English. A 21 days' in-service training programme is also arranged every year for the primary teachers.

### Change in students' background :-

In the new course, children have been exposed to English at an early stage. The strategies employed at the beginner level of this course are better suited for younger learners. The fifth std. teacher of English will find that this new batch of students is different from the batches in the past .

### 1Teaching - learning process implied in the new course.

The teachers should make maximum use of peer- learning & self learning. The teachers should

focus on co- operation rather than on competition. The teachers must ensure that each child makes some efforts on his own. The teacher should not only teach English. but also show how to learn & study English further on ones own. . The teacher can from his own repertoire, supplement the eclectic technique & other strategies within the framework of joyful, meaningful & participative teaching/learning process which boosts the learners confidence & provides scope to his creativity. Hence the need of the study to find out the facts about teaching English at Upper primary level because English is being taught by a graduate teacher. There are only 11. 42 % teachers who have completed their graduation with English subject.

### Objective of the study :-

- 1.To investigate the problems of students in English language.
- 2.To find out the strategies being used by English teachers in classroom teaching.
- 3.To know the most significant domain of English language that the students wish to learn.
- 4.To investigate the procedure being adopted by the students to improve their language proficiency.
- 5.To suggest some guidelines to improve communicative ability of students.

### Methodology :-

The present investigation deals with Solapur district in Maharashtra, conducted on 429 teachers of English and 626 students of class V to VII. Random sampling technique was adopted. Open ended questionnaire was prepared with the help of teacher's educators, key resource persons and scholars of English teaching.

### Results of our study:-

- 1.Out of 429 teachers communicative competence was favored by 13% teachers.
2. 40% teachers stated that accurate pronunciation can be acquired through listening the tape recorder again, watching TV, listening programmes of standard channels like BBC etc. They were in favor of constant practice and emphasized the significance of imitation for learning pronunciation. .3. 70 % teachers emphasized that lengthy syllabus stated main obstacle in achieving the target.
4. 30 % teachers feel that most important job of a language teachers is to impart communicative skills to learners, . 40 % teachers opined that English teachers

should try to generate interest in their learners towards English. 5. 40 % teachers interestingly reported that they teach English through grammar translation method, while 20 % teachers use communicative approach & direct method & 40 % teachers use group discussion / interaction method.6. Grammar is also taught through the presentation & study of grammatical rules & definitions. 7. Exposure of learners is limited only to that vocabulary which they come across through their text books. Only 10 % teachers say that they provide some stimulant to students to use new words. 8. The overall emphasis was on the development of reading & writing skills, while listening & speaking skills remain largely ignored. 9. The ray of hope lies in the fact that 93 % teachers expressed their firm belief that it is possible to reach upto required standard level in English through adequate exposure & constant practice .

#### **Student's view:-**

- 1) 70% students complained that they hardly get any opportunity to interact with the teachers, .
1. 63% student were dissatisfied with the teaching methods used by their teachers .
2. English was regarded as an interesting subject by 70 % student, while 30 % of them were attracted to its utility aspect, .
3. Only 22 % students stated that they watch T.V. programmes, news etc. in English.
4. Only 6 % student devote extra time to learner English .
5. Almost half of the students were dissatisfied with the development of skills & expressed their opinion that given the opportunity they would like to master the foreign language.

#### **Discussion of results:-**

The present study establishes the fact that the ultimate goal of our teaching is to impart information. Teachers take their duties as done if their students secure good marks in examination. Less effort was ever made by teachers to evaluate the written skills or oral skills of students outside their classroom. Our

present examination system evaluates the memorization or cramming power of our students. They are rarely motivated to speak or write a few words on any general topic that shows their creativity, imagination or expression power. So it can't be claimed that the students have acquired proficiency in expressing themselves. in written form. Researchers advocate the efficacy of interactive / eclectic method of language teaching but the grammar - translation method that is used extensively by the teachers become redundant. & has been discarded in favour of direct method. These new methods are not practiced in class room teaching.

#### **Suggestion:-**

1. To generate interest among student, we have to concentrate on what is to be taught; ..
2. To generate interest in English, the teachers must adopt interactive method to teach English.
3. English teachers have to refrain themselves from creating an autocrate ambience in the classroom. Democratic set - up of class helps students to express themselves.
4. Task based on fluency work can be designed by English teachers or the readymade task prepared by experts can be used for this purpose.
5. Learners need more exposure for standard spoken language if they are expected to speak correct English language. At least two hours per week exposure to good listening material can serve student as a reliable model for imitation.
6. English newspapers, magazines & even comics can enrich the vocabulary of students. Picture books, illustrated books & comics etc. are good for beginners, as these are helpful in removing the fear from the mind of learners.
7. Programmes like English quiz group discussion on a certain topic, debate, declaration, mime and extempore must be introduced in schools to raise students the standard of learning of students with average proficiency in English & to motivate the rest. The introduction of these charges will break the monotony of English classrooms. Language learning will not remain a task as it is supposed to be can impede our success.

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