

Inception of Idea of Model Schools in Raajkiya Prathmik Vidhyalaya of Uttarakhand

According to Benjamin Franklin- “Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn”.

Archana Negi*

**Research Scholar, HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar.*

Abstract

English language has been a potent vehicle of means of communication all over the world. India is a developing country where there is also a race of acquiring and assimilating this foreign language. From the minute of Macaulay a shower of English language is still in precipitated form that need to be dispersed evenly throughout the Indian territory .With idea of generating English knowing people Macaulay introduced this policy in India

English is the Lingua franca of India. Lingua franca is the language of communication among speakers of other language. The scenario of India is entirely different in rural areas of India, where English is an ogre for the rural students. To eradicate this fear a congenial environment and conducive method is drastically needed. Here the role of schools is very crucial.

Keywords: *Model School, Lingua Franca & paedogogy, curriculum*

Reference to this paper
should be made as
follows:

**Archana Negi ,
Inception of Idea of
Model Schools in
Raajkiya Prathmik
Vidhyalaya of
Uttarakhand**

RJPSSs 2017, Vol. 43,
No.1, pp. 227-232

[http://anubooks.com/
?page_id=2012](http://anubooks.com/?page_id=2012)

Article No. 29 (RJ1905)

Archna Negi

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English is the Lingua franca of India. Lingua franca is the language of communication among speakers of other language. The scenario of India is entirely different in rural areas of India, where English is an ogre for the rural students. To eradicate this fear a congenial environment and conducive method is drastically needed. Here the role of schools is very crucial.

Most of the schools run by the government of Uttarkhand has the facility of Hindi medium only, they study only English subject in the English medium. Government has started a scheme of converting some primary and intermediate schools into model school. There will be an option for the student to opt English or Hindi medium for their learning in the academic year. The idea behind this is to make the students more friendly with the English language.

Government has conducted written exams for selecting the teachers for this newly introduced model schools. The proficiency and efficiency of teaching in English medium is the main requisite of the post. In primary schools with the matter of English language another matter of difference is the staff facility and full assistance of physical infrastructure. For model primary schools the 5+1 staff facility is mandatory. Where in earlier pattern of staff recruitment that schools is entirely different that is there the staff requirement is still on the strength.

The model school program is being implemented in 117 primary and middle government schools in Uttarakhand .Its primary aim is to strengthen primary government schools with a focus on quality education.

The Model School scheme aims to provide quality education to talented rural children through setting up of 6,000 model schools at the rate of one school per block as benchmark of excellence. The scheme has the following objectives:

- To have at least one good quality senior secondary school in every block.
- To have a pace setting role
- To try out innovative curriculum and pedagogy
- To be a model in infrastructure, curriculum, evaluation and school governance

The scheme envisages setting up of (i) 3,500 schools in as many educationally backward blocks (EBBs) through State/UT Governments, and (ii) remaining 2,500 schools under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode in blocks which are not educationally backward. The model school programme is being implemented in 117

primary and middle government schools in uttarakhand.

Its primary aim is to strengthen primary government schools with a focus on quality education .The model schools being set up in each block as an experiment will be equipped with all facilities and stop guardians from moving to big cities for the education of their wards.

The target of setting these models school is to convert them finally into a residential schools or in a hostel form. So that the students from backword areas wont feel alienated as they have least facility in places out of their areas. These will benefit them in long term and fecilitate them with every sort of things. Will boost their courage ,determination and there sense of responsibility.

As English is a potent vehicle of communication it is accumulated with prestige in its development on childs life. These schools will pay special attention to childs spoken English .

Present scenario in rural area is bit appalling .In Government schools where the physical infrastructure is very poor, Therefore the responsibility of the teachers is bit more demanding and challenging. It is therefore the teacher who is the real maker of the students life. Marring and making of ones life solely depend on the performance and non performance of the teacher.

The institution ones desired to maintain the quality can easily maintain the quality in a stipulated time. Therefore at the same time the role of the management is entirely very important. Approaching to the required quality needs a proper management to come at a par. The team work with a win -win policy can ease out the problem very easily and in no time.

At the same time the role of the parents is also very important. Their motivation is a booster tonic for the children .Ones this tonic is injected to them their performance raises ultimately. With the establishment of this kind of benign and conducive environment a whole pattern of dilemma can be changed into a dynamic format . ultra modern technology, audio- visual aids, mobiles and computers have become a common scene at the rural places, still the yields are not at all satisfactory and not to be cherished.

Teaching at Rural Places

As mentioned earlier, the rural English teachers have their own techniques and methods that they feel and assume to be effective, but in actuality they are useless and are unable to generate interest and liking among the students for English. It is common sight that the translation method is preferred and adopted in the class where the students understand the whole topic in their mother tongue (or the

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widespread regional language), but are unable to speak or express their feelings, ideas, views, opinions etc. in English, which is a great cause of concern. Teaching and learning English through mother tongue not only hampers their vocabulary but also makes the learners diffident in all respects. One should keep this crucial point in his mind that mother tongue can be used as a means, but not as an end. The mother tongue impact is so terrible that they start thinking in the mother tongue and then try to translate it in English which makes their English speaking and writing not only horrible but also miserable.

Learning at Rural places

According to Benjamin Franklin- "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn".

To some extent, the learning of English language in rural places is in a very sorry state or we can

say that it is on its decline, and if proper care and precaution is not taken in time, then it will be a great matter of bother for all of us. The English learning is either by rote learning or by imitating blindly which is hampering their understanding to a great extent. Today rote learning is a process that is disapproved by the experts all over the world. Regarding teaching and learning at rural places, the ambiguity still prevails and the learners learn English only from the examination point of view; they are unable to use English in realistic situations but somehow they get through the exams. So the fear and disinterest prevail throughout their lives. Learners understand the whole text in their mother tongue and when it comes to writing or speaking, it becomes a great problem for them to speak or write correctly and appropriately. So learning should be done in a proper and organized way. The words of Aristotle are true, *according to him "Learning is not a child's play; we cannot learn without pain".*

What is Our Role?

According to Robert Frost- "I am not a teacher, but an awakener".

The words of Robert Frost are significant and also an eye opener for all of us. Our role has changed from time to time. We, the learned teachers, most of the time, feel restless to change our roles as we don't want to come out of our comfort zone. Now we have to play the role of a facilitator, counselor, advisor, helper, motivator and so on. The fear of English can be removed only by the English teacher who should organize the following activities in the class-

Make the learners work- in groups, pairs and even individually.

Teaching of English in an Innovative Way

Use audio-visual aids.

Use language games like Quiz, Puzzles, Riddles, Dumb Charade, Pictionary etc
Arrange competitions like debate, speeches, group discussions, reading, handwriting, essay writing, composition etc. Enable learners to conduct all social and cultural programmes (birth and death anniversaries etc) in English instead of Hindi or in the regional language. Enable students to speak simple sentences in English and later ask them to tell stories, anecdotes, jokes and share their daily routine with the class. Enable them to form English speaking groups, reading clubs, book clubs etc.

Let's learn to teach

We should not undertake only those methods of teaching that make us (English teachers) feel comfortable, but the methods that the learners can understand and feel comfortable with. We are always very sure that we teach exceptionally well, and we are also well trained and equipped, but what is of use if the students cannot understand our teaching. Gone are the days when we only used the coursebook, a chalkstick and duster to teach English to our eager and aspiring students in the classrooms. Now it's high time to think beyond the traditional methods that we know, and start using the most effective methods in the classroom that will prove wonders, and the results will be truly an outstanding one.

1 Diagnose the Learner

According to E.M. Foster "Spoon feeding in the long run teaches us nothing but the shape of the spoon"

We must know the learner very well as it is essential to understand the errors, problems and the areas where the students lag behind. We have to diagnose their problems, whether they commit mistakes in reading, writing, understanding, pronunciation, grammar, spellings, using incorrect syntax or inappropriate words etc. This will surely help us to know exactly the learners' problems and their expected solutions. When the problem is located, it becomes easy for us to find their remedies and possible way-outs in no time.

2 Provide appropriate remedial treatment

When the problems and errors of the learners' are diagnosed and studied; we have to provide proper solutions and remedies for them. We have to find a remedial treatment tailored to their needs and necessities. The remedial treatment should meet the learners need and requirement. When the learner is committing errors in spellings, we have to provide him various ways to make his spellings correct and perfect. If his pronunciation is incorrect, then we have to provide him audio-video clips that can make his pronunciation accurate and perfect.

3 Practical & Project based learning

Aristotle has rightly stated "For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by

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doing them”.

When the learners are diagnosed, a special remedial treatment should be provided at the earliest that would be beneficial for both teachers and students. Nowadays the drilling, rote-learning or repeating a sentence or word for fifty times etc have become outdated and out fashioned, as many new strategies are adopted for better results . Now it is high time for the English teachers to use the practical approach. They should provide the students certain real life situations on which a word register, sentence bank and appropriate chunks are prepared and collected. Even certain projects that help them to improve their reading, writing and speaking should be given regularly. Collecting audio and video clips of great speeches, interviews etc of great personalities, or writing bio-sketch of poets, writers, novelists, playwrights etc. and

collecting short stories, anecdotes etc can become useful project-activities for students.

4 Make them understand the purpose of learning

“Beautiful thing about learning is that nobody can take it away from you” B.B. King

It is essential to make the learners understand the very purpose of their learning the English language which is the language of communication, trade and business.