Teaching And Learning Methods of English Language

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Abstract:- In the paper different methods of teaching and learning English language and literature is discussed. In the world of internet and e-education, the teacher has to shift from teacher-centric method to student-centric methods, activity oriented teaching and learning. Government has introduced several policies and training to the teachers to teach language in an interesting way. The main purpose of learning literature is discussed. Conference and seminar will help the teachers and the students to broaden their outlook. At the end of the paper duties and responsibilities of the teacher and students are analysed.

Key Words:- Communication skills, technological devices, functional English, teacher centric and learner centric.

Innovative Methods of Teaching English Language:-

Today's world is a global world with lots of technologies. Communication in English has become mandatory to express intelligence, thoughts and ideas. Students in metropolitan cities don't face much difficulty in communicating in English. But the students from rural background lack skills to communicate in English.

English language teaching (ELT) and literature teaching has occupied greater popularity in the twenty first century due to the development of IT and BT sector. English literature occupies greater place in syllabus framing at graduate and post graduate level. American and British literature, Post Colonial literature, Indian Writing in English, English communication skill occupy an important place in the structure of syllabi in India. The teacher is a facilitator in the classroom and build the career of the students. In the age of e-education, traditional method of syllabus structure and teaching method are
lagging behind. Hence this need is to be changed according to the need of the time. Due to globalization and information technology whole world is becoming small. Hence teacher has to use technological devices to teach the students to lead an enlightened and good life and foster their sense of power.

To improve the communication skills teacher can use tools like projectors, language laboratories, on line teaching etc, lectures are recorded and students learn by listening at home. It is helpful to other students of different places to enhance their knowledge.

Pictorial presentation of some books is very helpful for proper understanding of works. Several plays and novels are made films, which are shown to the students. Audio and video devices are very helpful in understanding literary work more impressively. Some other methods like- role play, group discussion, quiz enact prescribed drama are helpful in comprehending the language.

Government has taken steps to improve the teaching techniques of teachers. Hence much training is given to teacher to update their knowledge. Several schemes and policies are introduced to use several devices in higher education system. There are training centres like EFLU in Hyderabad, Regional English Language Training Centre in Bangalore. These are giving several courses like PGCTE, PGDTE, ELT etc to the teachers to train teachers to teach the students from primary school level to post graduate level.

English syllabus is prescribed in college and university not only to comprehend and appreciate literature but to cultivate the cultural sensitivity and humanistic consciousness. Language is functional, hence it changes according to the need of the time. The functional English has gained importance to suit the needs of computer translation, tourism, trade and commerce etc. It is observed that teaching of English language is mandatory at every level of education. In rural areas teachers are using traditional methods of teaching like chalk and talk and teacher centric teaching. Hence it has been curbing the students interest. Students must be encouraged to constructivism; it means learners have to construct their own knowledge. Computer aided multimedia teaching will enable self learning ability in students.

The purpose of English literature is to develop students capacity in reading, vocabulary, ability to criticize and understand basic grammatical structure, understanding tone and rhyme of the work. Students are given enough chance to increase their ability to construct the literary knowledge and humanistic awareness. Here teacher should not impose their knowledge with their teacher oriented teaching, but teacher has to play the role of facilitator to help the students to construct meaning and appreciate literary work of art. Students must be encouraged to use internet to enhance the understanding of particular text.

In order to avoid ineffective, boring, dull and teacher centric teaching and learning, involve the students in activities and create interest. The students will learn language through experience and experiment. The students presentation and role play are best tools for the students to learn language. For example, if William Shakespeare's *King Lear* is prescribed for syllabus, teacher has to encourage students to enact the play. The Students must be given background knowledge of the play and audio-video presentation of the play is presented to the students with the help of internet. Then the students
will be happy to enact the play. They will practice dialogues and rehearsal the scenes and finally present the play. This method will involve nearly twenty to thirty students in a class. Teacher will help the students to solve problems while practicing the play. This method can be used in the study of novels and short stories. The students presentation of a poem will enable them to read analyze and scrutinize the poem. Practical criticism help students to analyze rhythm scheme, metric scheme, rhyme scheme, use of different technique of language and analyze the theme. As students are from different culture and experience they are encouraged to look at a piece of literature through their outlook, here reader response theory works. Internet will help students to have the wider scope of different cultures.

Conference and seminars are the other ways of learning language. The students must be encouraged to present a paper in conference and seminars. In the classroom mock seminars can be organised. The students must be given the task of paper presentation. This method will encourage the students to read, write and speak their thoughts. Further conference will enable the students to have scholarly writing and reading skills, scholars come together to find a solution through discussion. In conference the students are introduced to different domains like music, art, humanities. The students get exposure and broaden their knowledge through conference, seminar and workshop.

The students must be given the knowledge of the world. They must know why they are reading particular text book. They must analyze that whether the book is particularly helping them in their betterment of life and giving knowledge of society apart from scoring marks in the exams. Hence the outlook of the students and teachers must be changed to look at text and syllabus prescribed for them. The teachers and students must not be ignorant of their duties and responsibility but they have to be aware of their duties and impart knowledge to students and better the life of the students in society.

Reference:-

1. Notes from EFLU in the course PGDTE in “Methods of Teaching English Language” in 2007.