

Learning in Vernacular Creates Barrier to Effective Communication of English among the Library and Information Science Students in India**Shraboni Das Assistant Librarian,****Pailan College of Management and Technology, Kolkata****Abstract:**

*People of West Bengal felt proud for their educational system. But at present especially last few years the quality of education has become bad in unexpected way especially for learning in English language. Whereas the Bengali language has been chosen the main media of education in West Bengal so the Library and Information Science students are and also other students are facing so many problems to build up their career nationally and internationally in India and abroad. Which kind of problems they are facing that has been investigated in this study. It is suggested in research findings that in employment cases knowledge in English language will show the new way to the Library and Information Science professionals in India and abroad. In professional life of those students it is very much important to fluent in English speaking as well as writing communication. To improve themselves it is needed to bring back the English language as education media otherwise our country will be backward due to lack of knowledge in English language. If one works in India inadequacy in English knowledge won't affect his/her social life, but English is one of the official languages in India. **Methodology:** 52 male and 38 female students from six universities were interviewed. **Findings:** The present research reveals that knowledge of English opens doors into the world of professional employment in India and abroad*

Key words: Career Opportunities, Communication, Library and Information Science Education, Lingua Franca, Vernacular Language.

1. Introduction:

English Language is extensively used in all walks of life all over the world. Above one fifth of people all over the world know more or less about English. Nearly 1.8 billion people in the world speak in English and the number is increasing day by day. Among our education system most of scientific study, Technical Study, Medical study conducted in the world are in English. Nowadays it is used as a lingua franca i.e. 'a vehicular language spoken by people who do not share a native language' (Mauranen, 2003; Matthews, 2000) in International Business, technology and banking.

In our country a huge number of LIS students comes with regional language background, Most of them are intelligent, academically bright students come with a lot of hope and aspiration to make a significant contribution in academic and professional world. But there is a big obstacle in their bright career that is English language. The competency in spoken English as well as written communication plays an important role in the academic life and career of LIS students.

In rural India regional language plays dominating role as a medium of instruction in education. In urban India, there are two types of education i.e. English medium and Vernacular-medium. English medium education helps a person tremendously to move up vertically. In the job market, a candidate with English proficiency also gets preference over regional language proficiency. English is the language of the Government, Public administration, the legislature and law courts. It is the medium and only medium to communication between educated men and e-world.

Now a day's our society is fully depends on internet. English language is only one language for use the internet and e-education.

2. Literature Review:

English language in education played a dominant role in all over the world. The British introduced an education system in India which created a educated group in urban India. On that time these English educated people were work in different Government job and belongs to the urban middle class. After independence in 1947 some of these English spoken people under different political ideology come into Indian Parliament and regional State Assemblies. Some of them held power in centre or in state. After that English remained dominating language among the Indian learned society, political leaders and professional employees. But in the rural India the son and daughter of poor farmers, the local traders could not master in the English Language. The situation remained relatively unchanged till now. For this reason internationally brought down the quality of education in West Bengal. So that there are two types of people one of the parts of them is well educated and well known the English language and the other part of them are half-educated and poor in English language.

In the most urban India, there prevail two systems of education i.e. English Medium and Vernacular Medium. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE, New Delhi) offers education in either Hindi or English whereas Indian Council of Secondary Education (ICSE, New Delhi) allow education only in English.

At present Indian citizen are realized that their children will be in disadvantageous position due to lack of knowledge English language. In 82nd annual meeting of the Association of Indian Universities Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam (2007), former president of Indian asserted that only 25 percent of graduating students were employable due to their lack of knowledge in area such as English proficiency and critical thinking.

In his research Crystal(1997), observed that 85% of the world's international organizations use English as their official language in transnational communication.

3. Objectives of the Research:

After globalization, Increasing number of young boys and girls in India are joining varieties of Universities to be a Librarian. The awareness about education, economic, social change and overall job opportunities at home country as well as foreign countries has given young generation more freedom and economic independence. The present study aims to investigate:

- 1) The problems, the young students face while they are pursuing Library and Information Science courses and the problem they expect to face in working situation due to lack of their knowledge in spoken as well as written English.
- 2) What are the factors responsible for their poor speaking skill?

4. Research Methodology:

4.1. Data collection:

A questionnaire is used as a tool for data collection. The questionnaire consists of two parts: the first part enclosed question regarding the socio-biographical variables of the respondents and the second part contained seventeen questions. These seventeen questions also divided into six different components.

4.2. Population:

The data was collected from six different Universities three of these regular Universities and three open Universities in India. Students were chosen randomly from LIS course. Out of 110 students, 90 were from Bengali medium. In the present research we only considered the students who have come from Bengali medium educational system.

The sample consisted of 52 male and 38 female students. They came from different branches of education such as Arts, Science and Commerce. The age group of the sample was 22-30 years.

5. Result and discussion

In our study question 1, 2 and 3 co-related with component 1 because of their common nature. The component may be labeled as 'Knowledge in English opening doors into the worlds of professional employment' (Table-1) In global competitive market, organization puts lot of importance on good communication skills. A person who can communicate effectively well is accepted into a team more easily. Knowledge in English builds self-esteem and self-confidence. Not only Library and Information Science field but also other field of education's students faces this kind of problem during their college life. They have to face same problem in their work places. In one study (Al-Tamini and Shuib, 2010) mentioned that graduate engineering students from the faculty of Petroleum and Engineering at the university of HUST, had difficulties to get job in oil companies because of their poor knowledge in English.

Table 1: Knowledge in English opening doors into the worlds of professional employment

Sl. No.	Question	Yes	No
1	Do you agree English being the common language for communication with the world?	80%	20%
2	Do you agree Knowledge of English helps one to builds self-esteem and self-confidence?	84%	16%
3	Do you agree Knowledge of English opens door into the world of professional employment in India and abroad?	90%	10%

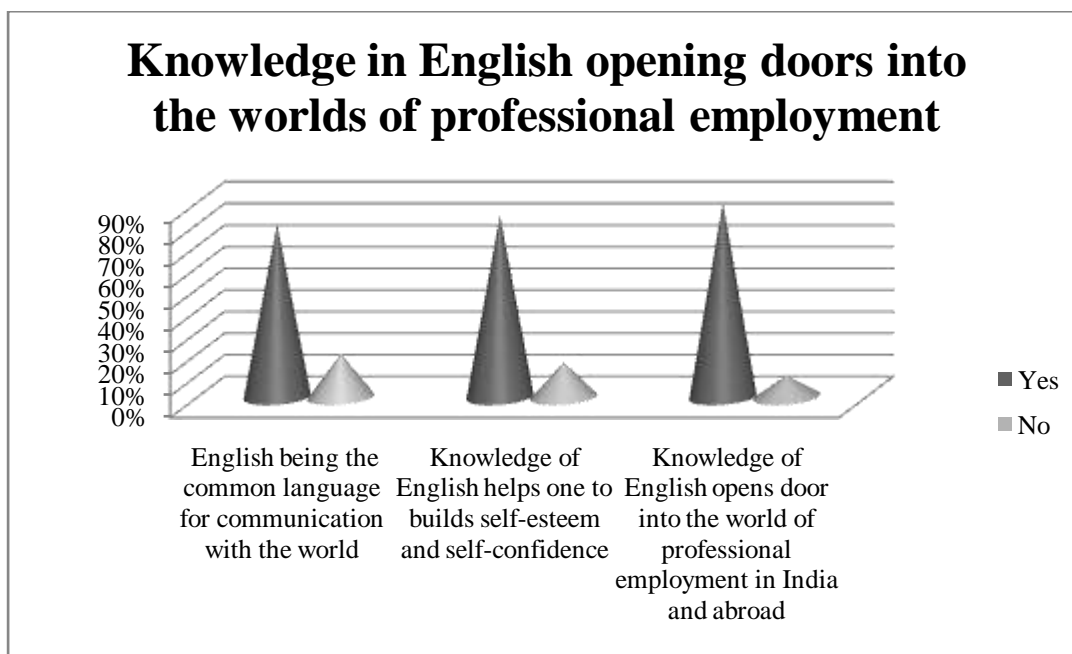
Figure 1: Knowledge in English opening doors into the worlds of professional employment

Table 1/Figure 1 shows that 80% of students says that English being the common language for communication with the world. They also told that this is only one language that is well accepted by much country. All over 84% of total respondents says that Knowledge of English helps one to builds self-esteem and self-confidence. 90% of respondents are says that Knowledge of English opens door into the world of professional employment in India and abroad.

Component 2 is related with question number 4, 5, 6, 7 and may be labeled as 'Spoken as well as written communication in English is very much essential in academic and professional life'. In globalised world if one cannot communicate well with his/her colleagues and peers he/she will suffer from inferiority complex. Almost every university in the world is conducting their scientific studies in English. Most of the research works are published in English language. To understand the modern research works one

should have competency in English language. Few studies also suggest that competence in English language plays an important role in the academic life as well as career of engineering students (Venkatraman and Prema, 2007).

Table 2: Spoken as well as written communication in English is very much essential in academic and professional life

Sl. No.	Question	Yes	No
4	Those who are from English medium, they are ahead of us in facing interviews and other extracurricular activities in English	90%	10%
5	Do you agree one feels inferior, not knowing English properly in professional world?	73%	27%
6	Do you agree written communication is very much essential in official work and even in academic and professional life?	79%	21%
7	Without knowing proper English one won't feel comfortable to give oral presentation.	82%	18%

Table 2 shows that 90% of students are agreed that those who are from English medium school are stand ahead of them who are from Bengali medium in facing interviews and other extracurricular activities in English. 73% of respondents say that they suffer for inferiority complex due to lack of knowledge in English in their professional places. 79% students have admitted that written communication in English language plays an important role in their education and professional life. On the other hand 82% respondents say that verbal presentation in English language is not suitable for them without proper knowledge in English language in cases of higher studies.

Component 3 is related with question number 8, 9 and 10 and can be labeled as 'English should be the medium of instruction in India'. India is a multilingual country. As a result of different regional languages along with English as a secondary language were introduced as medium of teaching in Bachelor level of Library and Information Science (BLIS) in some university in India. But there are some universities where every course of Library and Information Science are being taught in English in the state of West Bengal as well as in the country. English acts as a common language of communication among all walks of life in India and abroad.

Table 3: Due to lack of knowledge in English in working situation one falls far behind in career advancement

Sl. No.	Question	Yes	No
8	There is no justification to use local vernacular in BLIS level when all the books/journals are in English for higher education (PhD, Research paper etc.)	60%	40%
9	Do you agree Knowledge of English helps one to contribute his skill in team work?	81%	19%
10	India is a multilingual country. Do you agree English should be the medium of instruction in India?	94%	6%

Table 3 shows that 60% students says that Vernacular language is suitable for BLIS course, 40% students says that it is too much important that BLIS course is conducted in English language in every university. Because in case of higher studies they have to follows all the books and journals in English language. 81% students say that they are able to get the place in team work by the help of knowledge in English language. 94% students have given their opinion as English language should be the main language of education in India.

Component 4 is related with question number 11, 12 and 13. This component may be labeled as 'Bridge course does not help much in this stage'. Everybody knows that childhood is the best time to learn a language. In West Bengal, Bengali is the first language. Hindi and English play the second and third language role in Bengali medium school. In English medium school like ICSE Board, English play the first language role and Bengali and Hindi play the second and third language role. So students, those who come from a Bengali medium school, they face communication problems in English and they think that bridge course in English in BLIS level would not help them much.

Table 4: Bridge course does not help much in this stage

Sl. No.	Question	Yes	No
11	Do you agree it is not necessary that one has to know English if he works in his home state or in India?	80%	20%
12	Bridge course in English if organized by university for LIS students does not help much to students who are weak in English in this stage.	72%	28%
13	Do you agree increasing unemployment of Librarians in India is due to lack of communicative skills in English?	60%	40%

Table 4 shows that 80% of student are agree that it is not necessary that one has to know English if he works in his home state or in India. On the other hand 72% of students are says that Bridge course in English if organized by university for LIS students does not help much to students who are weak in English in this stage because they think that childhood is the best time to learn a language. 60% of students are says that increasing unemployment of Librarians in India and abroad is due to lack of communicative skills in English.

Component 5 is related with question numbers 14 and 15 and may be labeled as 'English is essential if one wants to work outside the country'. At present many LIS students are interested to find their suitable job in foreign countries. So it is necessary for them fluency in English language.

Table 5: English is essential if one wants to work outside the country

Sl. No.	Question	Yes	No
14	After globalization job opportunities have increased. Do you agree to take advantage of this, one should know English?	98%	2%
15	One has to know English if one likes to have social life in abroad.	90%	10%

It is shown in Table 5 that 98% of students are agreed with that after globalization job opportunities have increased so one should know English to take this advantage. 90% of students are says that if one likes to have social life in abroad so one should know English.

Components 6 are related with the question number 16 and 17. This components may be labeled as 'Inadequacy in English knowledge would not affected social life in India'. In India Hindi is the national language. So everybody knows Hindi to some extent. In school level one learn regional language as a first language and English or Hindi language learns as second or third language respectively according to the rule on medium of education. Hindi film plays a vital role in Indian social life. An uneducated man also learns Hindi through watching Hindi films. So when a person gets a job after his/her education anywhere in India, communication does not create any barrier in working place as well as in social life as long as he/she works in India.

Table 6: Inadequacy in English knowledge would not affected social life in India

Sl. No.	Question	Yes	No
16	Do you agree students' language background matter when they are assigned group-work projects?	87%	13%
17	I don't think inadequacy of English language will affected my social life in India.	76%	24%

In Table 6 it is shows that 87% of students are agreed that students' language background is play a vital role when they are assigned group-work projects. 76% of students are says that inadequacy of English language will not affected their social life in India.

6. Suggestions for improving the current status:

English language is playing the common language role as a lingua franca in all over the world. At present in the globalized working situation a Librarian needs good communication skills in English language if he aspires to carry out his/her professional duties properly. A College or University Librarian must be able to easily overcome his national and cultural boundaries. Today knowledge of English in spoken as well as in written communication is of a primary concern for all individuals and especially students and academic communities who are at the forefront of contemporary civilization. Knowledge, Skill and abilities of a student are very much needed, but a student must be ready to present it with an excellent standard of communication skill, particularly verbal. In the age of liberalization, privatization and globalization, good communication skill in English play very significant role in determining success or failure of a student's career.

The present research reveals that knowledge of English opens doors into the world of professional employment in India and abroad. Spoken as well as written communication in English is very much essential in academic and professional life. In working situation, one falls far behind in career advancement due to lack of knowledge in English language. Bridge course does not come to use mastering the language. To overcome this drawback of English should be common language of education in India. Though inadequacy of English knowledge will not affect their social life in India, but English is one of the official languages of India. It is the language of Government, Public Administration, the Legislature, and Law courts, Science, Technology and Businesses. It plays a significant role to unite educated India citizens who come from various regional, ethnic and language groups.

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