

ELT: A REFLECTION ON THE CHALLENGES FACED BY THE INDIAN LEARNERS OF ENGLISH

LOURDES JOAVANI. J

Department of English, Loyola College, Chennai , India

ABSTRACT

This paper addresses the challenges and problems faced by Indian learners of English. The discussion emphasizes a few major issues such as: a) interference of the mother tongue b) the present objectives of instruction which have excluded creative comprehension and communicating with originality from listening, reading, writing and speaking. c) excessive obsession on the part of English language teachers to incorporate 'technology' in teaching that has made language learning a mechanical procedure. d) the curriculum content in most institutions which focuses on the inadequacies of the students and not on their efforts: due to which the acquisition of skills and information by the learner is left without being contextualized. e) inability of tertiary level students to achieve proficiency in the area of language learning because of their grammatical incompetence. This paper also focuses on the fact that English is being taught only as a 'library language, and discusses how efforts to improve the communicative competence has taken a backseat. f) heterogeneous learners or learners belonging to multicultural societies being exposed to a curriculum which is based on the objective of 'one-size fits all' instruction which often proves ineffective. A few suggestions are also discussed so that English language teachers can help students overcome these hurdles in their language learning process.

KEYWORDS : English, Indian learners, Proficiency, Fluency, Communication, Soft skills, Personality Development.