

STATUS OF ENGLISH AT ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS IN KARAD

DEEPAK K. NAGARKAR

Assistant Professor,
Department of English,
Venutai Chavan College, Karad,
Tq. Karad Dist. Satara,
Maharashtra.

ABSTRACT

English has become a language of fascination. One who can speak English is thought to be intelligent. He can get a good job just on the basis of speaking English. Parents have understood the importance of English as a language and they are enrolling their students in English medium schools. People who have money and power are opening new schools knowing that they can earn like anything in the form of fees. They don't ask for any affiliation from the state government as they don't want any kind of watch on them. In this mad craze for English as a language of speaking, people have forgotten that the utility of any language depends on its proper usage. The Sanstha owners are not cautious about this because they are concerned with the income and parents are not concerned because they are mostly unaware of English and its proper usage. Karad is not fully urban yet. The farmers who have sent their kids to English medium schools think that their kids are getting best education. As they themselves can't speak English, they think whatever is being taught in schools is correct and satisfactory. Nobody is there to tell the parents that their kids are not learning English. The medium of instruction is not English. The assessment of the kids is done by the teachers of the same school so they are getting best scores. The oral examinations, the presentations in English are found missing. The teachers themselves were not found competent enough to speak English. When these kids will appear for the board examinations or any further competitive or entrance examinations, their future appears to be dark. Some measures are very necessary. Some external watch by an authority or government is essential. Government should not give up its responsibility as it gives affiliation in the form of registration number required.

Karad is a taluka place. It is situated at the confluence of Krishna and Koyna rivers. It is a city known for Hon. Yeshwantrao Chavan, the first Chief Minister of Maharashtra. It is growing up educationally as there are government colleges. Some very well known Marathi medium schools are there in Karad. Holy Family Convent School was the pioneering school offering English Medium in Karad. It is a school run by Christian Missionary. Its most of the teachers were nuns but now local people are appointed as teachers. Some other schools also have mushroomed in the recent years. These schools are run by some rich Karad people. The present paper is about some of the observations of the English medium schools.

English has become a language of fascination. One who can speak English is thought to be intelligent. He can get a good job just on the basis of speaking English. Parents have



understood the importance of English as a language and they are enrolling their students in English medium schools. People who have money and power are opening new schools knowing that they can earn like anything in the form of fees. They don't ask for any affiliation from the state government as they don't want any kind of watch on them.

In this mad craze for English as a language of speaking, people have forgotten that the utility of any language depends on its proper usage. The Sanstha owners are not cautious about this because they are concerned with the income and parents are not concerned because they are mostly unaware of English and its proper usage. Karad is not fully urban yet. The farmers who have sent their kids to English medium schools think that their kids are getting best education. As they themselves can't speak English, they think whatever is being taught in schools is correct and satisfactory. Nobody is there to tell the parents that their kids are not learning English. The medium of instruction is not English. The assessment of the kids is done by the teachers of the same school so they are getting best scores. The oral examinations, the presentations in English are found missing. The teachers themselves were not found competent enough to speak English. When these kids will appear for the board examinations or any further competitive or entrance examinations, their future appears to be dark. Some measures are very necessary. Some external watch by an authority or government is essential. Government should not give up its responsibility as it gives affiliation in the form of registration number required.

Sanstha as Owners

An education institution is established with the aim to provide education to the kids of that area. At least that is the purpose said in its foundation. But this thing is conveniently forgotten after the sanstha is full-fledged; the owners forget the reason behind its establishment. They remember only one thing that it is their private property and they can use it as they want. Some of them get grants from the government but the owner has complete hand on it. The government gives grants but does not have any hold on it. In such circumstances the set up of the Sanstha completely collapses. Sanstha becomes an institution where everything happens except education.

It is observed that most of the Sansthas belong to politicians or the kiths and kins of some political leaders, so nobody dares to touch them. The illiterate owners rule the most learned or most reverend teachers. An education institution is considered to be a private property by its owners and their heirs continue to be the owners. Management is for the sake of signature or the Management itself has got all the family members as the Sanstha owners. They come and visit the school as if they are visiting a farm. They dictate the decisions and the teachers have to follow their decisions.

Teachers Appointed

The appointment of teachers in the non-aided schools is a matter of great concern. The teachers appointed in such English Medium Schools posses very less qualification required for a teacher. Most of them are just graduates. Their interviews are conducted by the sanstha owners who can hardly speak English or can know what it requires to become a good teacher.



Their major concern is the salary that is to be paid to these teachers. As employment has become a matter of great concern and most of the qualified people are aspiring for jobs, these candidates for the interview accept all the terms and conditions laid down by the interview panel. They are asked to work on a megre salary. In such megre salary the teachers don't find that impetus required to teach with their best talent.

Salaries Paid

In most of the English medium schools, the salaries are paid by the Sanstha as they are not aided by the government. In some of the places it was seen that the teachers have to sign on a different amount where they are paid megre salary. At some of the places it is so megre that a laborer earns more than them. The qualification and the education they have taken seem to be of no use as the payment is less than a laborer. The teachers who think that they deserve more salary amount, they deny to work there but most of the new comers accept the job as they think they may get at least the experience of teaching. But at those schools where salaries are megre, the less qualified teachers are found. In fact those who cannot speak a few lines of English with correct grammar are appointed just because they don't demand more amount as salary. In such a situation one can easily understand what kind of teacher he may be and what he might be teaching.

At some schools it was found that the kids are getting more than 90% of marks where as they do not know some basic things about English speaking and they cannot speak English at all.

English as a Language of Instruction

While teaching the medium of instruction pays a vital role. The kids understand a language with the help of instructions given to them. If the teachers instruct them in the mother tongue, how can the kids learn English that is essential for them? Teachers should speak, instruct and even scold in English that the kids can understand some basic words of English. This is not happening and English medium schools are English just by their names. All business is happening just in the mother tongue.

The Way Syllabus is taught

A teacher needs to be competent in his subject then only he can teach properly. She should not be the master of his own subject but he should be able to understand and can relate his subject with other subjects. For this his understanding of subjects is very important.

But it has been observed that most of the teachers read the text book and explain its meaning line by line. In subjects like History the teacher cannot just read the text book in the class room and explain the meaning. He can take help of the text book but his knowledge about the event or a historical person has to be wider than that has been given in the book. This way he would be able to make the subject interesting.

A subject like Mathematics can be made very easy with the help of practical examples. Students can solve most of the problems in Mathematics but they don't know that this

knowledge can be used somewhere. It is Mathematics for the sake of Mathematics. The same is the case with English grammar. For students grammar is something that is related with changing the format of a sentence. But they don't realize that this English grammar is the base of forming a sentence in English. This awareness and practical use of a subject is very essential for a teacher.

Ignorance of Parents

Parents play a vital role in the mushrooming of English medium schools. They proudly say that their children are studying in an English medium school but they never try to understand what exactly is being taught in such schools. The parents cannot speak English but they want their kids to know and speak English. What the kids speak that also they can't understand.

It was observed that the score the students make is more than 90% in some of the English medium schools. It is surprising that the child who cannot speak some basic words of English can score more than 90%. If we try to understand the miracle of marks we come to know that the school teachers give them such marks which themselves become the publicity stunt. The school proudly says that their result is 100% and most of their students have scored more than 90%; but parents never try to know from where these marks come. The parents should be made aware of the loss their kids are going to face in near future.

Suggestions

1. Any school that is running must take permission from the state government and they must follow the standard rules and regulations that are meant for aided schools.
2. The appointment of teachers should be strictly observed by the state government. If it is an aided school, the government should appoint teachers and if it is private they must follow the criteria of minimum qualification.
3. The salary criteria should be decided by government. The Sanstha must give an undertaking that it will pay its teachers the salary paid at aided schools.
4. The salaries of all the employees should be credited in the bank.
5. Education is the most pious thing. But the way the English m
6. Medium Schools are run; they are no more like it. The negligence of the government is mostly responsible for the present state of education in Maharashtra.