

PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH [F-9]

Unit - I : Need and importance of English Language

Languages are important in life of any nation. People need a language to communicate with each other. "Language is the system of sounds and writing that human beings use to express their thoughts, ideas and feelings." Our country is Multilingual and Multicultural. We generally use three languages, the mother tongue (local language), Hindi and English. A Foreign language, English occupies a unique position in our country because of our past association with British. During British Raj, English was the sole language used for official works, Business and Education. Even after independence, it has a prestigious position in our society. It became a language of educated people. If any one talk in English, people listen him more seriously and carefully.

At the prior of independence, the constitution of India which was adopted in 1950 had envisaged Hindi as the only official language of the Union of India. And

English has been allowed to continue for 15 years from the date of adoption of the constitution and then to be replaced by Hindi. But in our country, people living in different states speak different languages. So, it was not possible to make only Hindi as official language. So, at the time of expiration of the period of fifteen years from the commencement of the constitution, English added as "Associate official language" through the act "The Official Languages Act, 1963" which was come in force on the 26th day of Jan. 1965. Hindi is an official of India along with 22 scheduled languages as the languages of the Union in present.

* English as a global language

English is a global language. It is a language spoken internationally. It is an official language of more than 50 countries. In world, one out of five people can speak or at least understand English. About 400 million people use English as a first language. Because of English used by worldwide and vibrant, its help us in communication. Even in our country people from North and South communicate with

other in English language. Here, it has become a link language.

* English around us

English is the language of science, computers, diplomacy and tourism. English is the language of Newspapers. Most of the national newspapers are published in English and are popular in cities and towns. Radio and Television also run programmes in English. Prime time slots are allotted for news in English. Sports commentaries, which have wide audiences, are delivered in English. Because of English is a associate official language, most of the governmental work, official work, done in English. English is a also language of Education. We get easily study materials, notes or books, related to any field in English language. Most of the public schools are English medium. Knowing English increases your chances of getting job in a multinational company within our home country or of finding work abroad. It is the main language used in computing. And Indian software engineers are proficient in English. English language uses for communication frequently. It helps in communication with foreigners. That's how we can say English is around us.

* Constitutional provision: English as an associate official language.

There is no national language in India. Our country is multilingual. People living in different states speak different languages. So, it was not possible to make only Hindi as official language. After that the Constitution of India designates 22 official languages for the government of India along with Hindi written in Devanagari script. And added English as an associate official language of the Union. Hindi or English is used in official purpose such as parliamentary proceedings, judiciary work. It helps in communication between the central government and a state government. States within India have the liberty and power to specify their own official languages through the legislation in India. English plays a basic role because of our past association with British.

* Proficiency vs. achievement in English

⇒ Proficiency

→ Proficiency means skill and experience. The fact of having the skill and experience for doing something.