

## A STUDY OF ACTIVITIES SUGGESTED IN THE ENGLISH TEXTBOOK AMONG PUPILS OF STANDARD VIII FOR DEVELOPING WRITING SKILL.

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### **Abstract :**

*There are a lot of difficulties in the teaching – learning process of VIII Standard English textbook especially regarding the writing skills activities. There are various reasons regarding these difficulties like lack of knowledge of different teaching methods and lack of grammar knowledge, lack of confidence. Out of all these problems present study was the attempt to study critically activities suggested in the English Textbook for developing writing skill of pupils, to find out adequate activities from the textbook, to find out suitable activities suitable to the age group, to find out how far the suggested activities are implemented, and to suggest additional activities for developing writing skill.*

*Writing activities has several advantages. It reinforces oral work and helps to make thoughts and expression precise and clear.*

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**Key Words :** Develop and Use Programmed, Verify Efficacy

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### **Introduction :**

The importance of English can be discussed in many ways. In the first place, it helped to grow the nationalism which ultimately freed the country from British yoke. English played an important role in the awakening of freedom.

- As a National link language
- As an International link language
- As a library language

### **As a Library Language :**

It was Kothari Commission (1964-66) which very aptly used this term and stated that mother tongue is the best medium of instruction up to the end Secondary education.

More than 60% of the world's technical journals, Newspapers, periodicals etc. are published in English. It is the only rich language which can be used for translation. The recent inventions and discoveries can be first imprinted in English. Hence one who wants to keep himself abreast of the latest developments in the field of science and technology should acquire a seasonable amount of proficiency in English.

Thus English is called a major window to the modern world. Therefore it is a vital importance to widen our knowledge and thoughts.

The importance of English has been increasing at the national and international level. The demand of English is increasing not only as source of language (language library) but also as an important language of communication.

### **\* As a National Link Language :**

After independence the constitution of India, though accepted Hindi as national language, evoked to continue English as the official language of the Union of India. It is only rich language which can be understood by most of the states in India because in our country, we have different states with different regional languages. Without English they cannot communicate their feelings and thoughts to other living in different states. Hence it helps in communication in all states. It is the only language useful to link all the states for any purpose. Therefore in such a country, English plays a dominant role as a link language.

### **\* English as an International Link Language :**

Different countries in the world use different languages as their mother tongue but most of the countries use English as their second language. According to 1971 census, nearly 200 thousand Indian use English as their mother tongue. All this indicates that English is used and adopted as a second language in all the countries in the world.

English is the only language which can bring all countries together for any purpose. People from our country can communicate their feelings and thoughts with English to the people from other countries.

**\* Position of English in School Curriculum :**

The Central Advisory Board of Education devised the 'three language formula' in 1956 which was later approved by conference of Chief Ministers of States in 1961.

The State of Maharashtra chalked out a new policy for the teaching of English in the views of its importance as an international language, as also the consequences of repaid advancements in technology and liberal economic policies. Without hampering the teaching of the mother tongue and the principle of teaching through mother tongue in any way, the Govt. of Maharashtra decided to provide for the teaching learning of English along with the mother tongue from std. one.

The new syllabus has been designed after considering the need and use of English in our society. The English language is not 'foreign' language to us in a way French or German or Russian is. For more than the last hundred and fifty years Marathi has been in closed contact with English. Modern Marathi has acquired several English words, sounds, English syntax and even the way of thinking that goes with English.

**Need of the Research :**

Language is learned by learning all the four skills viz. listening, spelling, reading and writing. Out of these four skills listening, spelling and reading are learned prior to writing skill. Writing is the last skill learned while learning a language. But still it has a significant place in the language. Writing skill is an important skill for the students mainly because in our education system written examinations are of great significance. It is the responsibility of the schools to develop this skill among the students.

Textbook as a primacy teaching aid is responsible to guide the try as well as provided different exercise to the students to develop writing skill.

The researcher has observed that the writing skills included in the textbook of English subject focus primarily on comprehension following points indicate the need of this research.

- 1) The present research is necessary to study the writing skills exercises introduced in the textbook.
- 2) It is also needed to find out the problems faced by the try while conducting the exercises in the classroom.

- 3) There is a need to find out the problems faced by the students while doing the exercises.
- 4) The research is needed to suggest remedial measure to solve the problems and to make this textbook effective.

Thus research is needed to identify the problems in the textbook, problems faced by try, students. The research is also needed about the activities are suitable to the age group or not or the activities are adequate or not and to find out the suggested activities are implemented.

#### **Explanation of Research Problem :**

The research work is related to the activities in the VIII std. English textbook for developing writing skill.

There are a lot of difficulties in the teaching – learning process of VIII Standard English textbook specially regarding the writing skills activities. There are various reasons regarding these difficulties like lack of knowledge of different teaching methods and lack of grammar knowledge, lack of confidence. Out of all these problems present study would attempt to study critically activities suggested in the English Textbook.

#### **Objectives of the Research Problem :**

##### **The main objectives of the research :**

- 1) To find out the activities suggested in the English Textbook for developing writing skill of pupils.
- 2) To find out adequate activities from the textbook.
- 3) To find out suitable activities are suitable to the age group.
- 4) To find out how far the suggested activities are implemented.
- 5) To suggest additional activities for developing writing skill.

#### **Operational definitions of important terms :**

- 1) Activities – Activities means developing paper attitude, habits, and ideals etc.
- 2) Textbook- In the absence of any other instructional material the text book becomes a potent tool in the hands of a teacher to teach the skill of a language and the more so of a foreign language.
- 3) Writing skill – Writing skill is a complex process involving physiological and psychological processes.

- 4) VIII<sup>th</sup> Standard -- This is the level which is achieved after the completion of VII std.

**Importance of the Research :**

- 1) Critical study of the activities for developing writing skills exercises in the English textbook VIII standard of English of SSC Board is important to enable the textbook writers to understand the problems faced by the try while teaching writing skills.
- 2) The study is also important to enable textbook writers to understand the views of the students towards the writing skills activities in the English textbook of VIII standard.
- 3) The study would also be useful for textbook writers in order to introduce the variety of writing skills exercises appropriate to the level of understanding of the students.
- 4) The research would also be helpful for the try to plan different writing skill activities in the classroom to develop students writing skill.
- 5) The research would be useful for the students to understand the role of textbook in developing writing skills.

In India English is taught as a link language and third language. The teaching of English is viewed for the practical point of view; hence one of the aims of teaching English is to enable the students to use English for practical purpose.

Learning of language played vital role in the study of the activity in the development of skill of writing and it is supposed as an essential language skill.

Writing activities has several advantages. It reinforces oral work and helps to make thoughts and expression precise and clear.

- It fixes words and sentence patterns more finally than oral work.
- It shows up clearly the weaknesses of every student.
- It gives equal practice to all the students irrespective of the size of the class.

In the present the school curriculums English is not used as the medium of instruction. It is learnt and taught only from the practical point of view.

Therefore,

It is essential that English language teaching must start with teaching how to speak English. The skill of speaking can't be achieved easily it requires special attention.

### **Scope and limitation of the Research :**

The scope and limitations of this research are as follows.

1. This research is selected to only English textbook of Marathi medium school.
2. This research is restricted to 8<sup>th</sup> std. English textbook.

### **Limitations of the Research :**

1. This research is restricted for 10 years till the syllabus of text book is not changed.
2. It is related to the writing activities only.
3. The test developed for the researcher is not standardized. It is a teacher made test.

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