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## ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING: A NEXT GATE TO SOCIAL AWARENESS

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**Abstract.** Teaching is considered a complex and challenging activity both intellectually and emotionally. Yet it can be made simple and interesting. Mostly individual adopt this profession with aim to change the life style of young people, considering their emotional and psychological need beign part of society. This research study focuses on English Language Teaching (ELT). This research will shed light on the concept of ELT and its relationship with social awarness and student involvment in community service activity. Results of this research study reveals that ELT is not bound to just educating student but also consider a powerfull source to develop social awarness. ELT teachers can create awarness and prelocate into a better society. Also, they can bulid mind setup regaring educating other to make socitey a better place to live. The role of university is not simply to teach bread winning, or to furnish teachers for the public schools or to be a center of polite society; it is, above all, to be the organ of that fine adjustment between real life and the growing knowledge of life, an adjustment which forms the secret of civilization.

### INTRODUCTION

Teaching is a complex and a challenging activity. However, we can make it simple and interesting. The knowledge and skill enable us to be wise and more resourceful. Most of us enter into this profession because we have a passion for it and want to be proud to be teachers. According to Cruickshank, Bainer and Metcalf (1999), most people enter teaching because they want to make a difference in the lives of young people. While concerned about their students' emotional and social welfare, a teacher's most direct obligation is to ensure that students leave their class with greater knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of specific subjects and the other people than when they entered. A teacher is a beautiful creation of God, I learnt about it in 2004 in a daily newspaper quoted by AP Abdul Kalama, the former President of India. So teachers of all the subjects with the power of learning and teaching can provide education that improves the ability of the students to understand the world and guide them to be civil persons. However, I will focus entirely on English language teaching; highlight its association with social awareness and student involvement in community service activities.

### English Language Teaching (ELT)

ELT is challenging to both English and non-native English speaking teachers. Both require professional skills and abilities to be effective teachers. However, for English as a Foreign Language (EFL), teachers may require to be bilingual and or

multilingual. Regarding this, Smolinski (1988) states, 'fluent foreign language use is a means of reaching out beyond national boundaries in the expression of ideas and personality, and in the comprehension of them- a skill and an art which our twentieth century world requires for as many of its citizens as possible.'

I viewed Liu (2013) presentation at International Association of Teachers of English as Foreign Language (IATEFL) conference 2013 on English Language Teaching (ELT). According to him, there are six abilities of a competent English Teacher.

1. Make constant and effective changes
2. Learn and speak at least one other language
3. Teach less to maximize learning
4. Teach English in at least one subject area
5. Familiarize oneself with new learning and teaching modes.
6. Ensure learning outside the classroom.

Keeping these academic abilities in mind, I understand that ELT teachers can as well step outside mainstream topics to create social awareness. This is the true education of life. Besides their ELT profession, it is the spirit that they hold to offer a helping hand to bring a positive change in the society. There are many English teachers in Nepal who are rendering service to the society. They are bringing about changes in the lives of the needy people. It is in their ELT profession that has identified both as an individual and a social matter. Khati (2013) has identified the ELT teachers (Nepali) followingly: Rima Magar from

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Ramechhap leads a language association from Magar community, Bishal Shah from Lalitpur promotes the sale of handicrafts, Padam Sapkota from Chitwan advocates for Child Rights while Sushila Karki supports girls in schools who need special care and assistance. Though professionally they are ELT teachers, they are engaged in social activities, serving the community at different levels. They are the living examples creating social awareness to make the community better. We can instill this in our students as well. Though social work is significant to every human being speaking any language, the paper seeks to include learners who are keen in learning English and helping others to understand the language.

### **Nepathya Band**

Besides ELT and social awareness, music as well has been used for a noble cause. For example, Myagdi Library was burnt down during the conflict era. Amrit Gurung of Nepathya band staged a programme on December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013 in Kathmandu to donate proceeds from the concert to help rebuild the library. It is a realistic way to bring about a positive change (Mohamed, Ismail, Tarmuchi & Mustafa, 2015).

### **Student Involvement in Community Service Activities**

These activities really inspired me to motivate students to take small steps in volunteering to help others with their skills at personal level. For example besides, motivating students to donate blood and plant trees, we can inspire them in teaching oral communication or written communication at schools and colleges at the village development committee (VDC) at their nearest locality.

Students who have completed schooling from public schools have difficulty with the language while the others who have received education from private schools and colleges are better in English. The teacher's responsibility is to facilitate with the subject. So I encouraged the knowledgeable students in English to teach English to the college/school going students studying at public schools at (VDC) (Sutthipornphalangkoon, 2016).

In fact, the students at the undergraduate and graduate programmes have gradually gained a good command of English language. Their knowledge can be shared with the school students and we can help them improve the language (Chang, 2016; Bunchutrakun, Lieungnapar, Wangsomchok & Aeka, 016). However, time and place for the students have to be

carefully planned so that both can benefit from this noble cause. They will be providing opportunity to those students who are disadvantaged from good speaking and writing skills. As a result when they are ready to enter the university, they have improved their language. In practicality, both group of students have benefitted i.e. by teaching and learning.

There are teachers who have always done more than just teach language. They try to stimulate students to think about social awareness and initiate positive change. Quartano and Shaw (2013) elucidates 'Let's teach more than English' in their paper presentation. They further provide measures as how the students can be motivated, followingly-

<b>Promote</b>	<b>Encourage Children to</b>
Social improvement	Take responsibility
Respect for others	Think critically
Fairness and equality	Be aware of the world
	Initiate improvements

ELT teachers in Nepal can also motivate students to improve lives of others at different contexts. They can as well use their skill in creating social awareness. It is a way of combining their knowledge and proficiency to bring a positive social change. We can correlate between ELT and social work by engaging students in writing project work about the social issues and conduct debate on such matters. The healthy output can be utilized strategically at appropriate places and that would be major contribution to the society. In this way such activities can be integrated into language lesson.

### **CONCLUSION**

Besides language and teaching, ELT is a powerful weapon to raise social awareness. We need to develop strategies to understand and produce natural language in the context of ever changing global field. Therefore this article tries to opionate that English language can create awareness and percolate into a better society. Undoubtedly, this is the education of life. ELT teachers collectively need to generate this idea into the student's mind to change the lives of the people. It is the need of the world. Feldman (2003) rightly quotes Dubois, 'The function of the university is not simply to teach bread winning, or to furnish teachers for the public schools or to be a center of polite society; it is, above all, to be the organ of that fine adjustment between real life and the growing knowledge of life, an adjustment which forms the secret of civilization.'

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— This article does not have any appendix. —