International Journal of Scientific Research in Engineering and Management (IJSREM)
Volume: 09 Issue: 06 | June - 2025 SJIF Rating: 8.586 ISSN: 2582-3930

Enhancing Public Speaking Skills among Engineering Students for Improved Employability in MNCs

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ABSTRACT:

The rapid evolution of science and technology has created new avenues for engineering disciplines, emphasizing the crucial role of engineers in modern industries. However, a significant gap exists between the technical expertise of engineering graduates and their English communication skills, which are essential for career success. In today's globalized job market, employers seek engineers who possess not only technical knowledge but also excellent communication skills. Engineering graduates with proficient English communication skills have a competitive edge in interviews and are more likely to excel in the workplace. This paper highlights the importance of integrating English communication skills, public speaking skills into engineering education to enhance employability. By acquiring effective communication skills, engineering graduates can augment their technical knowledge, increasing their chances of securing better job opportunities and succeeding in their careers. Effective public speaking skills are crucial for engineering students to succeed in multinational corporations (MNCs). This paper explores the importance of public speaking skills, identifies the challenges faced by engineering students, and provides strategies to improve their public speaking abilities.

KEYWORDS: Career Growth, Professional, Public Speaking skill, English communication skills, Challenges, Employability, Engineering Graduates

I. INTRODUCTION

Public speaking is an essential skill for engineers to communicate their ideas, designs, and projects to colleagues, clients, and stakeholders. However, many engineering students struggle with public speaking anxiety, lack of confidence, and inadequate preparation. The importance of English communication for technical students and the problems faced by them during academic as well as in their professional life is identified. Students from different economic backgrounds like poor, rich and middle class families have schooling in India that influences English speaking skills. Though most of the students possess intelligence, but they lag English communication skills (Public Speaking) which are necessary for getting job in MNC Company. The employability of engineering graduates in India is often hindered by their inadequate English communication skills and lack of confidence. Despite English being the medium of instruction throughout their academic journey, many graduates struggle to communicate effectively in English. This paradox raises questions about the underlying factors contributing to this phenomenon. HR managers across various industries emphasize the importance of English communication skills for successful professional careers, yet a significant number of engineering graduates fail to meet this expectation. In fact, studies suggest that nearly 50% of professional students lack employability skills, including effective communication. This disparity highlights a glaring gap between industry expectations and the skills imparted to students during their four-year professional course in engineering colleges. This paper aims to investigate this gap and explore the mismatch between the English language proficiency of engineering graduates and the requirements of the industry. It is found that basically engineering students need public speaking skills for the following reasons:

1. To express and share their knowledge, ideas, thoughts and experiences in an effective manner for the common benefit of the society.
2. To aspire a bright academic career growth.
3. To sharpen presentation, writing, negotiation, intrapersonal skills etc.
4. To be successful in the job interviews.
5. To work in a globalized and multilingual culture.
6. To secure a higher level of position in the related jobs.
7. To lead the team from the front.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Numerous studies have emphasized the importance of public speaking skills for engineering students. A study by [1] found that public speaking skills are crucial for engineers to communicate their ideas, designs, and projects to colleagues, clients, and stakeholders.

Challenges Faced by Engineering Students

Several studies have identified challenges faced by engineering students in developing their public speaking skills. A study by [2] found that engineering students often experience public speaking anxiety, which can hinder their ability to communicate effectively. Another study by [3] identified lack of confidence, inadequate preparation, and limited opportunities for practice as major challenges faced by engineering students.

Strategies for Enhancing Public Speaking Skills

Researchers have proposed various strategies for enhancing public speaking skills among engineering students. A study by [4] suggested that incorporating public speaking modules into engineering curricula can help students develop their public speaking skills. Another study by [5] recommended providing opportunities for students to practice public speaking, such as through debates, presentations, and role-playing activities.

Role of Technology in Enhancing Public Speaking Skills

Technology can play a significant role in enhancing public speaking skills among engineering students. A study by [6] found that video recording and playback can help students identify areas for improvement in their public speaking skills. Another study by [7] suggested that online public speaking platforms can provide students with opportunities to practice public speaking in a low-stakes environment.

Impact of Public Speaking Skills on Employability

Public speaking skills can have a significant impact on employability in MNCs. A study by [8] found that employers in MNCs often require engineers to possess strong public speaking skills to communicate effectively with colleagues, clients, and stakeholders. Another study by [9] suggested that public speaking skills can be a key differentiator for engineers seeking employment in MNCs.

While their later work with Baptist (2021) examined the changing role of Indian literature in education, Rose and Bhuvaneswari (2020) highlighted the educational value of storytelling for children. *In The Tall Tales of Vishnu Sharma: Panchatantra*, Rose and Bhuvaneswari (2025) introduce anthropomorphism as a novel narrative technique that improves moral communication and visual storytelling. The use of theatre as a tool for meaningful learning was emphasised by Loganathan and Meena Devi (2022). Kumar . (2014) emphasised the value of communication skills for career advancement in engineering education. Kumar and Philip (2012) called for gender-inclusive narratives and criticised the idealised depictions of women in literature. Together, these studies highlight the importance of literature, storytelling, and communication for both professional success and cognitive development.

There is a considerable interest among the researchers on the development of public speaking skills in the engineering students by various methods. However, this paper focuses on all the basic activities which are necessary for the engineering student to develop job-oriented English language skills (Public Speaking Skills)

2.1 Research Gap:

Even though there is an abundant literature on communication skills in technical education, little research is focused specifically on public speaking as an independent skill in engineering curricula. Hence, the weight of the existing literature is on the identification of challenges, detached from institution-wide strategies for integration and improvement. Little has also been researched about the efficacy of using digital platforms and performative methods like theatre and storytelling within an engineering context. This study thus fills these gaps by providing a critical synthesis of challenges and integrating interdisciplinary strategies, with a core focus on technological and pedagogical inventions for Indian engineering students.

III. Methodology

A critical literature review and comparative analysis back up the qualitative methodology used in this study. Peer-reviewed journals, case studies from Indian engineering schools, and conference reports are some examples of data sources. Using a thematic analysis approach, the study divides recurrent barriers into three categories: sociolinguistic, institutional, and psychological. The usefulness, scalability, and potential for curriculum integration of remedial strategies are assessed. The study offers a tactical framework for enhancing engineering students' public speaking abilities by combining pedagogical theory, empirical observations, and institutional reports.

IV. PROBLEMS FACED BY ENGINEERING STUDENT

Engineering students often face challenges in developing their public speaking skills due to:

4.1 Limited opportunities for practice:

Engineering curricula often focus on technical skills, leaving little space for public speaking practice. This can result in students having limited opportunities to engage in public speaking activities, such as presentations, debates, or discussions.

Lack of Public Speaking Courses: Many engineering programs do not offer public speaking courses or modules, leaving students to develop these skills on their own.

Focus on Technical Skills: Engineering programs often prioritize technical skills over soft skills like public speaking, leaving students with limited opportunities to practice public speaking.

Limited Extracurricular Activities: Engineering students often have demanding course schedules, leaving little time for extracurricular activities that could help them develop public speaking skills.

4.2 Fear of public speaking:

Many students experience anxiety and fear when speaking in public, which can hinder their ability to communicate effectively [3].

Glossophobia (fear of public speaking) is a common phenomenon among engineering students. This fear can be debilitating and prevent students from developing their public speaking skills.

Fear of Being Judged: Students may fear being judged or evaluated by their peers or instructors, leading to anxiety and a reluctance to speak in public.

Fear of Embarrassment: Students may fear embarrassing themselves in front of others, leading to a fear of public speaking.

Lack of Confidence: Students may lack confidence in their ability to communicate complex technical ideas, leading to a fear of public speaking.

4.3 Cultural and language barriers:

Students from diverse cultural backgrounds may struggle to communicate effectively in a foreign language or adapt to different communication styles.

Students from diverse cultural backgrounds may struggle to communicate effectively in a foreign language. Different communication styles, norms, and expectations can create barriers to effective public speaking.

Language Barriers: International students may struggle to communicate effectively in English, leading to difficulties in public speaking.

Cultural Differences: Students from different cultural backgrounds may have different communication styles, leading to misunderstandings or miscommunications.

Different Communication Norms: Students from different cultural backgrounds may have different norms and expectations around communication, leading to difficulties in public speaking.

4.4 Lack of Confidence and Self-Esteem

Students may feel uncertain about their ability to communicate complex technical ideas, leading to a lack of confidence and self-esteem.

Fear of Not Being Taken Seriously: Students may fear not being taken seriously or being perceived as incompetent, leading to a lack of confidence.

Lack of Experience: Students may lack experience in public speaking, leading to a lack of confidence.

Negative Self-Talk: Students may engage in negative self-talk, leading to a lack of confidence and self-esteem.

4.5 Inadequate Feedback and Support:

Students may receive limited feedback from instructors or peers on their public speaking performance, making it difficult to identify areas for improvement.

Limited Feedback: Students may receive limited feedback from instructors or peers on their public speaking performance.

Lack of Support: Students may lack support or resources to help them improve their public speaking skills.

Inadequate Assessment: Public speaking skills may not be adequately assessed or evaluated, making it difficult for students to identify areas for improvement.

V. REMEDIES

Strategies to Improve Public Speaking Skills

To overcome these challenges, engineering students can employ the following strategies:

5.1 Incorporating Public Speaking into Engineering Curricula

Engineering programs can incorporate public speaking modules or courses to help students develop these skills.

Public Speaking Courses: Engineering programs can offer public speaking courses or modules to help students develop these skills.

Incorporating Public Speaking into Technical Courses: Public speaking can be incorporated into technical courses, such as requiring students to present their projects or research.

Encouraging Student Participation: Instructors can encourage student participation in class discussions and debates to help students develop their public speaking skills.

5.2 Providing Opportunities for Practice and Feedback

Engineering programs can provide opportunities for students to practice public speaking and receive feedback from instructors or peers.

Public Speaking Clubs: Engineering programs can establish public speaking clubs or organizations to provide students with opportunities to practice public speaking.

Peer Review: Students can review and provide feedback on each other's public speaking performances.

Instructor Feedback: Instructors can provide feedback on students' public speaking performances, highlighting areas for improvement.

5.3 Building Confidence and Self-Esteem

Engineering programs can help students build confidence and self-esteem by providing positive reinforcement and support.

Positive Reinforcement: Instructors can provide positive reinforcement and encouragement to help students build confidence and self-esteem.

Support Services: Engineering programs can offer support services, such as counseling or mentoring, to help students build confidence and self-esteem.

Celebrating Successes: Engineering programs can celebrate students' successes and achievements to help build confidence and self-esteem.

5.4 Addressing Cultural and Language Barriers

Language Support Services: Engineering programs can offer language support services, such as language tutoring or language exchange programs, to help international students improve their language skills.

Cultural Orientation: Engineering programs can provide cultural orientation programs to help international students adjust to the local culture and communication styles.

Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives: Engineering programs can implement diversity and inclusion initiatives to promote a welcoming and inclusive environment for students from diverse cultural backgrounds.

5.5 Using Technology to Enhance Public Speaking Skills

Engineering programs can leverage technology to provide students with opportunities to practice and improve their public speaking skills.

Online Public Speaking Platforms: Engineering programs can utilize online public speaking platforms, such as video conferencing tools or online presentation software, to provide students with opportunities to practice public speaking.

Virtual Reality Training: Engineering programs can use virtual reality training to simulate real-world public speaking scenarios, allowing students to practice and improve their public speaking skills in a low-stakes environment.

Artificial Intelligence-Powered Feedback: Engineering programs can use artificial intelligence-powered feedback tools to provide students with instant feedback on their public speaking performances.

5.6 Fostering a Supportive Environment

Engineering programs can foster a supportive environment that encourages students to practice and improve their public speaking skills.

Encouraging Student Participation: Instructors can encourage student participation in class discussions and debates to help students develop their public speaking skills.

Providing Resources and Support: Engineering programs can provide resources and support, such as public speaking clubs or organizations, to help students improve their public speaking skills.

Celebrating Successes: Engineering programs can celebrate students' successes and achievements in public speaking to help build confidence and motivation.

By implementing these strategies, engineering programs can help students develop the public speaking skills they need to succeed in their careers

5.7 Join public speaking clubs or groups:

Participating in public speaking clubs, such as Toastmasters, can provide a supportive environment for students to practice and improve their public speaking skills.

5.8 Seek feedback from instructors or peers:

Receiving constructive feedback from instructors or peers can help students identify areas for improvement and develop their unique speaking style.

5.9 Prepare thoroughly:

Adequate preparation, including researching the topic, organizing ideas, and practicing the presentation, is essential for confident and effective public speaking

5.10 Focus on storytelling:

Using narrative techniques to convey ideas and experiences can make presentations more engaging, memorable, and impactful.

VI. CONCLUSION

The conclusion drawn from this study is that English public speaking and communication skills are an essential determinant of employability for engineering graduates. A significant gap exists between the existing public speaking and communication skills of professional students and the industry's requirements. Bridging this gap requires a concerted effort from educational institutions to emphasize the development of effective English communication skills. Public speaking skills are important for Engineering students both in studies and career. These skills should be acquired within four years of Engineering education. Developing effective public speaking skills is crucial for engineering students to succeed in MNCs. By understanding the challenges, they face and employing strategies to improve their public speaking abilities, students can enhance their employability and achieve their career goals.

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