

**SYTO : A Project Programme for Communicating in Sanskrit****Mr. Sanjaykumar Bhikhabhai Patel**

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Abstract

The paper aims to present the objectives, strategies and outcome of an initiative taken up by the Sanskrit research scholar on the topic SYTO to train the students to speak in Sanskrit fluently without any inhibition. The objectives of the project are to create recreational and consolidating opportunity for students to learn and practice oral Sanskrit and to trigger students' creative talents by to provide encouraging atmosphere. The criteria for analysing the speaking skill are: their ability to choose the topic on their own; preparation; flow of thoughts and ideas with illustrations; delivery mechanism; and pronunciation. The concluding part of the paper discusses the success rate of students' effort to speak in Sanskrit, the outcome and plan for its future improvement.

Key Words: - SYTO - Speak Your Thought Out, Communication, Sanskrit

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Dr. Rajubhai ParghiAssistant Professor
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Sanskrit is the main liturgical language of Hinduism and used to be the lingua franca that helped all of the different regions of Greater India communicates with each other. Most of the greatest literary works to come out of India were written in Sanskrit, as well as many religious texts. Sanskrit is the language of Hindu and Buddhist chants and hymns as well. Today, only about 1% of the population of India speaks Sanskrit, though it is protected as a scheduled language and is the official language of one Indian state, Uttarakhand.

India, in its many different incarnations, has a history that dates back to before the Iron Age, when Vedic Sanskrit, the ancestor of Sanskrit, was first spoken. This later gave way to Classical Sanskrit, which was used to write many of the great Indian epics, such as the Ramayana. Besides all of this, however, there are a few specific reasons why Sanskrit should be taken seriously:

One of the first written records was in Sanskrit

It has been attested that one of the first written records may have been in Sanskrit. It was probably the texts that make of the Rigveda, which is a collection of Hindu hymns that dates back to ancient times. Though there isn't a large body of evidence to support this, but even though Vedic Sanskrit was a purely spoken language, complete memorization in order for proper pronunciation was crucial, so we can safely say that the written accounts we have now were most likely the same as the ones then. These religious and ceremonial texts were extremely important in terms of both religion and philosophy.

Sanskrit is the philosophical language for a few religions

Besides its importance to Hinduism, Sanskrit is also a philosophical language used in Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism. Jainism is a religion practiced by probably less than 1% of the

population of India, and yet Jain literature has had a huge impact on Indian culture and history over the centuries. One of the main languages used to write this literature is Sanskrit. The main language of Buddhism was Prakrits at first, but later Sanskrit was adopted, with some of the most important Buddhist literature being written in Sanskrit. The Guru Granth Sahib, the most important Sikh religious text, is written in a few different languages, one being Sanskrit.

It has had a huge influence on other languages

One of the most popular languages in India today, Hindi, is hugely influenced by Sanskrit, and is in fact a register of the Khariboli dialect that has been “Sanskritised”. If you take a look at the modern Indo-Aryan languages, you will see that many of them directly borrow grammar and vocabulary from Sanskrit. Beyond those of modern India, other languages in nearby regions have been influenced as well. Austronesian, Sino-Tibetan, and many languages of Southeast Asia show Sanskrit influence as well. Some have said that there are even words in English that were originally Sanskrit words.

The objectives of the Study :

- (i) to create recreational and consolidating opportunity for students to learn and practice oral Sanskrit
- (ii) to trigger students’ creative talents by providing encouraging atmosphere.

The criteria for analysing the speaking skills are:

- (i) their ability to choose the topic on their own preparation
- (ii) flow of thoughts and ideas with Illustration
- (iii) delivery mechanism; and pronunciation

This is implemented for all the students from B.Ed. Colleges of Bharuch District (See Table 1) from the year 2017-18 and 2018-19. It is made mandatory that each student from Sanskrit Method class come and speak for 3-5 minutes to any teacher they preferred in Sanskrit. Students are chosen by a system of lots. Marks are allotted by the Faculty member they converse with. A record of the same is maintained by the students for reference. This is a routine assignment they perform in rotation throughout their B.Ed. Course of Method study. This exercise is added as a main activity of the literary association apart from the routine task; interested students may purchase more number of tokens and speak to score points for award during the valediction of the association. Finally the students who have more tokens will be selected to be rewarded.

Table 1

Sr.	Name of B.Ed. College	Number of Pre-Service Teacher
1	Amity B.Ed. college, Bharcuch	8
2	Munshi Mahila B.Ed. College, Bharuch	6
3	Satyam College of Education, Bharuch	10
4	Shree Swami Narayanswarup B.Ed. College, Ankleshwar	6

Among 30 Pre-service Teacher involved, all the 30 had attempted to speak out at least once. In the year 2017-18 three students were given best performer awards, seven students were given certificates for their involvement by taking special efforts to speak apart from their routine using extra lots and gained marks, ten students reached the intermediate level and the rest used only the minimum tokens which was made compulsory for them.

A special attempt was taken in the name of SFS (Start from the Scratch) as an extension of SFS to guide and encourage the slow learners by selecting one from each class to speak on a topic with continuous guidance for a period of three months. Given below is the content of the format of SFS given to each student with guidelines and time frame for them to follow. Analysis of the year 2017- 18 is given in Table 2.

- They have to communicate to two of their own department teachers and one teacher from another department in English
- The next step is to go to a higher level by communicating with the deans, vice principal and principal of the college
- Each section has a box for remark
- The final opportunity is to speak before an audience
- Teachers award marks in the column given
- Dates to be covered are printed in a format drafted by the purpose
- Final remarks will be given by the staffin- charge

The prime selection criteria to identify for SFS project are: Students who

- I. have the eagerness to learn and speak fluently but feeling shy or not confident
- II. never speaks or utters a single word in Sanskrit
- III. feel they have no potentials
- IV. afraid of people making fun of them

Table 2

Sr.	Name of B.Ed. College	Number of Pre-Service Teacher	Positive Remarks	Suggestions for improvement
1	Amity B.Ed. college, Bharcuch	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved • Rigorous practice will help to improve batter • Clarity in Language • Proper Pronunciation • Confidence improved • Good Language flow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay attention to body language • Improve Pronunciation • Be slow • Improve eye contact • Improve Language flow • Needs more training • Give few words to practice pronunciation • Be clear and audible • Pause and Stress can be improved • Needs refinements in delivery • Cope with your nerves • Listen to recording of your speech
2	Munshi Mahila B.Ed. College, Bharuch	6		
3	Satyam College of Education, Bharuch	10		
4	Shree Swami Narayanswarup B.Ed. College, Ankleshwar	6		

Few problems identified as a result of this project initiative are their (i) poor listening skill (ii) vocabulary (iii) pronunciation (iv) confidence. After practicing speaking through these assignments pre-service started paying attention to what others say. They became conscious and started to think before they speak. In response to the remark given by the teachers from the format, students were given guidance to practice listening to audios in Sanskrit every day, to prepare list of words with definitions and memorize them, to listen more and to practice pronunciation and to communicate effectively, keep a positive attitude. Ultimately, Sanskrit as Vedic Language teachers need to develop their own corpus by providing relevant and high frequency vocabularies to the learners which may be more beneficial to them to have a lists for their learning from the custom corpus.

Expected outcome of this Study initiative:

- i. Formulating a theme of writing clearly and precisely to practice speaking
- ii. Gathers and assesses relevant information

iii. Thinks open-mindedly and communicates effectively with others

This study is, in short, a self-directed practice. It requires rigorous exercise and mindful command of the use of language. It entails effective communication and the commitment to overcoming shyness in speaking.

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