



Yuva English : An English Course for Post- Secondary Youth from Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Backgrounds

Rationale

Most youth who have studied in regional medium schools would have extremely limited speaking, listening and reading skills in English, despite having been exposed to 7 -10 years of instruction in English as a second/third language. This is primarily because English was poorly taught in their schools, and is rarely used in their immediate environment. Without basic English skills, these young people are handicapped in terms of higher education and employment, but also access to various bodies of knowledge and to new technologies.

Given this existing scenario, and the dearth of English courses that cater specially to the unique needs of these young learners from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, the Centre For Learning Resources (CLR), funded by the Tech Mahindra Foundation (TMF), has designed a course entitled ‘**Yuva English**’, to impart basic communication skills in English, with a focus on speaking, listening and reading.

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Centre For Learning Resources



Objectives

Yuva English aims to enable learners in the age-group 16-30 years to:

- Use English to improve performance in higher secondary schools, colleges, polytechnics, vocational education training institutes, at the workplace and in social situations.
- Build confidence in speaking and understanding English.

Structure, Content and Duration

Yuva English is an interactive, bilingual 140-hour course - 140 modules, each of 1-hour duration. The entire course is meant to be completed in about 3 months. Recommended class size is 15-20 learners.

Course Materials

These include an Instructor’s Package comprising an Instructor’s Manual, audio-visual materials, as well evaluation materials (pre-test and post-test) to track the progress of learners. There are separate materials for language games and activities. For each learner, there is a Learner’s Book, Supplementary Reader and a Spoken English Practice CD.

Training of Instructors and Certification of Learners

It is proposed to diffuse **Yuva English** from 2012 onwards through Yuva Academies in Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Pune and Bangalore. Institutions interested in conducting Yuva English courses can depute their instructors for a 3-day training programme to these Yuva Academies. Yuva Academy trainers will provide training to these instructors, and will continue to support these instructors through periodic audio conferencing. The Yuva Academies will also provide testing services for certification of learner proficiency.

Course Quality and Impact on English Skills of Learners

Yuva English has been developed through extensive trialling and monitoring, as well as feedback received from participating organisations and learners in Delhi , Hyderabad, Mumbai, Pune and Bangalore. NGO staff, instructors, students, external experts, CLR and TMF staff have all attested to the high quality of the Yuva materials, and its relevance to teaching English communication skills to post-secondary youth from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Pre-test and post-tests conducted by NGOs, who participated in the trialling, indicated a significant improvement in English skills of Yuva English learners.

Percentage improvement in 176 Learners

