

English Language Teaching Reforms

Poor communication skills and the lack of proficiency in English of the emerging graduate are seen as one of the major problems that face higher education in Pakistan as well as other developing countries in South Asia (Malik, 1996; David, 2001). University students, especially those from professional institutions, fail to cope with the English language demands made on them in their academic and professional settings, leading to frustration and unemployment as well as a waste of national resources.



The overall goal of the project is to bring about a significant improvement in the learning and teaching of English language and research in the degree awarding institutions and universities of Pakistan.

OBJECTIVES

- 1. To develop a framework for the improvement of the standard of English language in Pakistan.
- 2. To develop an action plan covering all the specified areas in the field.
- 3. To suggest linkages with school programmes;
- 4. To identify local and international consultants and resource persons in the field.
- 5. To make recommendations for establishing English Language Learning and Resource Centers in universities.
- 6. To suggest measures for improvement of English language teaching facilities in the universities.

Six major themes for their plan of action have been identified by the National Committee on English chaired by Mrs. Zakia Sarwar of Society for Promotion of English Language Teaching. These include;

a. Reorganization of Departments/ Centre of English Language

- b. Curriculum and Material Development
- c. Faculty Development Programs
- d. Information Technology (On- line & CALL)
- e. Research and publications
- f. Testing

Table I: Projections for Faculty Training in English Language Teaching 2004 -07

S.No	Type of training	Faculty to be trained
01.	Long-term training	210
	Dip/Masters/COTE	
	Aga Khan University: Advanced Diploma Program	45 teachers
	in TEFL	
	Karachi University: MA Linguistics	30 teachers
	SPELT: COTE/ PTTC	45 teachers
	A.I.O.U: MA TEFL	30 teachers
	Kinnaird College: MA ELT	30 teachers
	National University of Modern Languages: MA Linguistics	30 teachers
02.	Short-term training (Short Courses of 36 hrs) ESL/EFL Study Skills/EAP	720 teachers
	Aga Khan University	180 teachers
	Kinnaird College	90 teachers
	SPELT	90 teachers
	National University of Modern Languages	90 teachers
	British Council	180 teachers
	Fatima Jinnah Women University	90 teachers
03.	PhD in ELT/TEFL/Applied Linguistics/Education (UK/USA/Commonwealth University)	3 teachers

Zarrin S Siddiqui

HEC representative on the Committee 19th September, 2003