



## A Project Initiative for Communicating in Sanskrit - SAMHASHAN

### Abstract

*The paper aims to present the objectives, strategies and outcome of an initiative taken up by the Sanskrit Method Master, Amity B.Ed. College, Bharuch on the topic SAMHASHAN to train the students to speak in Sanskrit fluently without any inhibition. The objectives of the project are to create recreational, frivolous 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 achievement rate of students' effort to speak in Sanskrit, the outcome and plan for its future improvement.*

**Key Word:** Sambhashan, Communication, Sanskrit

### Introduction

Sanskrit is the foremost core liturgical semantic language of Hinduism and used to be the lingua franca that assisted all of the different regions of Greater India communicates with each other. Most of the greatest literary mythical works to come out of India were written in Sanskrit, as well as many religious and spiritual manuscripts. Sanskrit is the language of Hindu and Buddhist melodies and hymns as well. Today, only about 1% of the total population of India speaks Sanskrit language, though it is endangered as a scheduled language and is the official language of one Indian state that is Uttarakhand.

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

### One of the first written archives was in Sanskrit

It has been showed that one of the first written archives may have been in Sanskrit. It was perhaps the texts that make of the Rigveda, which is an assortment of Hindu hymns that dates back to antique times. However there isn't a huge body of indication to support this, but even though Vedic Sanskrit was a decently pure spoken language, overall complete memorization in order for proper appropriate 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 spiritual and ceremonial texts were tremendously important in terms of both religion and philosophy.

### Sanskrit is the philosophical and metaphysical language for a few religions

Besides its important position to Hinduism, Sanskrit is also a philosophical and metaphysical language used in Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism. Jainism is a religion practiced by doubtless less than 1% of the total population of India, and yet Jain literature has had a vast huge impact on Indian culture and history over the centuries. One of the main languages used to write this literature is Sanskrit. The main foremost language of Buddhism was Prakrits at first, but later Sanskrit was accepted, with some of the most significant Buddhist literature being written in Sanskrit. The Guru Granth Sahib, the most central Sikh religious text, is written in a few diverse languages, one being Sanskrit.

## It has had an enormous impact on other languages

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

## The objectives of the Study:

- (i) To create recreational, amusing and consolidating opportunity for students to learn and practice spoken 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 2016-17 and 2017-18. 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 associate 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 2016-17 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 2016- 17 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 each 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"> <li>• Improved</li> <li>• Rigorous practice will help to improve better</li> <li>• Clarity in Language</li> <li>• Proper Pronunciation</li> <li>• Confidence improved</li> <li>• Good Language flow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pay attention to body language</li> <li>• Improve Pronunciation</li> <li>• Be slow</li> <li>• Improve eye contact</li> <li>• Improve Language flow</li> <li>• Needs more training</li> <li>• Give few words to practice pronunciation</li> <li>• Be clear and audible</li> <li>• Pause and Stress can be improved</li> <li>• Needs refinements in delivery</li> <li>• Cope with your nerves</li> <li>• Listen to recording of your speech</li> </ul>
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 contemplate 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 optimistic attitude. Ultimately, Sanskrit as Vedic Language teachers needs 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.

### **Outcome of this Study initiative:**

#### **i. Formulating a theme of writing clearly and precisely to practice speaking**

The participants of the study have formulated the theme for writing and prepare an article and then published in the various magazines. They have prepared a bulletin board of their college.

#### **ii. Gathers new and assesses relevant information**

The participants of the study have collection various news and some information that help them in speaking and they organized a college level seminar on the theme of Sanskrit speaking.

#### **iii. Thinks open-mindedly and communicates effectively with others**

The participant had day celebration and they celebrate the Sanskrit day to communicate a whole day in Sanskrit. They have also used this activity during the practice teaching in various and the student of the school enjoys a lot with the activity in speaking Sanskrit.

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

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