

'Hello English'

A programme for enhancing the quality of English language learning

There have been positive changes in the profile of English classrooms in primary classes in Kerala since the introduction of the revised curriculum and text books in 2008(Study by RIESI, Bangalore, 2011). The confidence level of learners in using English has gone up considerably. The children across the State have started producing their own creative writing in English in the form of stories, poems and other discourses. However, there are a few concerns that need to be addressed. A satisfactory proficiency in English is still a distant dream to most students. Kerala has to strive hard to make learning a joyful experience to the learners. Most of the students are competent users of their mother tongue. They should be confident users of English as well. For the people of Kerala, English is not an alien language; it is a language of opportunities and window to the world of knowledge.

It is in this context that SSA, Kerala with the support of SCERT and IT @school, has conceived a programme to enhance the standard of learning English in the state. The project is titled 'Hello English' and it has two central objectives – improving the teacher quality and enhancing the learner's proficiency to use English. The programme has an enchanting theme song 'Let's say hai to English lang'. 'Hello English' intends to transform teachers and learners. The state has chalked out a roadmap to make teachers confident users of English and there by enhance the English language proficiency of the learners at Elementary level.

The module for the teacher empowerment programme has been prepared in accordance with the curriculum and teaching learning process in vogue in Kerala. It includes processes for different sessions and inputs on different areas.

Hello English Programme was formally inaugurated by Prof. C.Raveendranath, Minister for Education on 26th of October, 2016 at Govt Lower Primary School, Manacaud, Thiruvananthapuram. Training to teachers in all districts at BRC level is in progress. The vista by Educational officers, B.R.C trainers and the interim study shows that the programme has motivated teachers and has given confidence to them to carry out teaching learning processes better in their class rooms.