



RESEARCH ARTICLE

BRINGING OUTBOUND TRAINING INTO CALL LABS OF MODERN ENGLISH CLASSROOM

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ABSTRACT

With emphasis on enhancing human effectiveness through personality enrichment, the paper has offered an a la carte menu covering a vast variety of activities leading to full of fun and excitement and something to learn. The plethora of outbound activities has provided a lot to learn to the students. The learning gained from the activities in CALL Lab will surely benefit the students throughout their life, both personally and professionally.

Key Words: enhancing; personality; activities; learning; outbound training; CALL Lab.

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INTRODUCTION

Training engineering graduates in CALL Labs of English, set in the outbound environment, has been very popular and interesting program. The training through Outbound Training Program may be given in CALL Labs as a setting and a backdrop has to be provided by language teachers. In the Outbound Training conducted by teachers/facilitators, the invaluable concepts of action and experiential learning - one's experiences serving as a learning apparatus - and endeavor to consistently helping students gain immediate and powerful insight into their own and their behavior. This is a determinant to the success of our training. One of the most distinctive facets of outbound training is that students are straight away able to see the consequences of mistaken actions and can see the solid variation that can be made by an alteration in their judgment and conduct. The trained facilitators enthusiastically help them to extrapolate the learning from these outdoor activities to their workplace.

In today's business world, the necessitate job skills are smart judgment, speedy feat and efficient life skills - qualities that are added well in an open-air pragmatic surroundings than through classroom training. Outbound programmes have been found to be predominantly valuable in areas that engross interpersonal relationships, conviction and bonding, communication of shared vision and goals, stimulus, behaviour alteration in response to transform, and individual effectiveness. While studying a language, the learners can be thrown into an outside environment using CALL Lab as the place to share. In many a colleges or universities the classroom environment

is not really helpful to the student to interact among themselves to reproduce what they assimilate. The outbound programme in CALL Lab is developed and designed keeping in mind the needs of modern-day learner.

Review of Literature

Many researchers have lent a hand in developing the theory and practice of the Communicative Language Teaching Approach - Hymes, 1972; Brumfit & Johnson, 1979; Rossner, 1988; Yalden, 1983; Savingnon, 1983; Nattinger, 1984; Richards & Rodgers, 1986; Nunan, 1987 & 1989; Brown, 1987; White, 1989. The fundamental theory of the CLT approach is the communicative competence (Hymes, 1972). Students do not merely learn the linguistic structures and grammar rules of English language. They have to learn how to use the language properly. Littlewood (1981) advocated that the learner should pay systematic attention to functional as well as structural aspects of language. In reaction to the grammar-translation, audio-lingual methods, the CLT approach outbound training programme emphasizes the communicative activities that involve the real use of language in daily life situation.

Methodology

a) Structure

The out bounding programmes normally gyrate around activities designed to develop leadership, communication skills, planning, change management, delegation, teamwork, and motivation. Students are divided into teams and assigned tasks or activities for completion in a specified time. Achievement and performance during the activities is reviewed in group discussions to identify behaviors that enhance performance or lead to failure or decreased performance. Strategies are formulated to deal with factors that hamper, and these strategies are then put to use in the activities that follow, to trial on their effectiveness.

b) Why Training

Due to the mighty and weight of information technology on the public and especially in the field of education, computer-assisted language learning is becoming the trend in English language teaching. Interactive computer network provided in CALL Labs allows students to assess the result of learning without the risk of being punished for any mistake. Learning does not have to be an anxiety. The environment in CALL Labs can reduce the anxiety of students and turns out to be a constructive side of learning.

Setting

In our outbound programs, students are made to go through a variety of outdoor activities where they will be required to face testing situations as individuals and teams. This will help them see the significance of communicate, leadership, teamwork, planning and delegation. Many reflect on outbound training as one of the best platforms for personality development, confidence building and team building. Through the feedback I have received from our student batches over the years, there is no doubt that the outbound training that we conduct is effective and should be an element of any institution. The outbound training workshops are very soaring drive series for enhancing individual and team performance. The outdoor activities generate an efficient learning challenging the individual and the team. The debriefing sessions at the end of each activity helps in reflection, retention and internalizing of concepts. The natural setting and outdoor activities include the fun to the training program which help in receipt and sharing and also openness to risk taking, moving out of comfort zones, testing, receiving feedback and adapting alteration in behavior. The very interesting part is that the students are taken to CALL Labs and an environment is created.

d) Active Student - Groups

The exposure helps a team in:

- Unlocking their potentiality
- Motivating other members
- Improving performance
- Building team spirit
- Increased collaboration, innovation and productivity
- Learning importance of open communication, building trust, giving and receiving feedback.
- Personal development contributing to humility, effectiveness, innovation, managing change, enhancing creativity, problem solving skills, performing in complex situations

- Developing self-confidence, positive attitude, motivation
- Managing time, anger and stress

Sample Activities and Exercises

Icebreaker: To untangle the participants – The students are asked to greet the other members in a manner and each one's greeting and mannerism should vary.

Team design: The need to know and associate with the activity and team will be trained - Naming, briefing, program goals and expected outcomes are to be done by the participants.

Mine Field: Team work, trust and communication under adverse conditions – Students are divided into teams of equal number. One among a team will be blindfolded and the rest of the members will guide him to march ahead the mine field and reach the destination safe. All teams will do the activity one after another and the time taken by them is noted. Further, they have to present the difficulties in receiving/giving directions.

Poster Making: Communication, listening skills – A theme will be given. The students have to make a poster discussing among themselves in given time.

Relocate a coin: Out of the box thinking – six coins are arranged in L shape and students are asked to make it rectangle with a coin replacement leading to lot of discussion among them.

Ad Making & Caption Writing: Team work, communication skills – The student – teams are asked to develop an ad and caption for an imaginary product leading to an edutainment – environment.

Create a News Channel: Creative thinking, team work, presentation skills - The student – teams are asked to develop an imaginary news channel and read out local, national and global news with advertisement or live show leading to an edutainment – environment.

A Man from Mars: Problem solving, communication skills, levels of patience – One student will be the man from MARS who follows literally the simple directions given by the voluntary students to complete a particular task. If the instruction is repeated, he will start from the beginning.

Writing: Using the study of classic and modern texts to extend their vocabulary and understanding of different styles of speaking and writing in English. Alongside this they will be honing their grammatical skills in English.

CONCLUSION

In present global business world, the immediate need has been for dynamic people with swift action along with effective people skills - qualities that are more effectively developed in an experiential classroom setting and training. It has been repeatedly proven that the participants in a well-designed outbound programme always find the experience memorable, and the benefits significant and long-lasting. This training programmes aim to take students, out of the comfort zone of their normal environment to participate in some specially designed exercises. Each of the activity is meant to offer them with a certain amount of self - discovery and self-understanding and introspection with its attendant outcome of self-development. There is also of course the joy and thrill of participating in such activities which will refresh and rejuvenate the participants, both physically and mentally. In addition, the activities present a challenging environment, which stretches their "normally assumed" capabilities and helps them break out of their self-imposed 'limitations'. All these effects become evident by the physical and mental 'high', which the participants exhibit in their study place.

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