Speaking English with confidence

Mukesh, a primary teacher, describes how he used ideas from the OER to practise his English and make more use of it in the classroom.

"The state government has decided to introduce English from Class I. My own knowledge of English was very limited and I felt uncomfortable speaking it in the classroom as I feared I might make mistakes.

Mukesh, Teacher (elementary/primary)

I found the TESS-India Elementary English OER ‘Classroom routines’. This looked very suitable for me, given my lack of confidence in English. Working through the OER, I practised saying short phrases in English. Using my mobile phone, I recorded myself and listened back, as a way of becoming more fluent.

With another teacher, I used the guidance in the OER to prepare a list of everyday classroom instructions. These included ‘Sit down now, please’ and ‘Can you come to the board?’

I started giving instructions in English in the classroom, speaking slowly and using gestures to facilitate my students’ understanding. My students are getting used to hearing me use English and I am becoming more confident in doing so.

In addition to instructions, I read the ‘Monitoring and giving feedback’ key resource OER and have started to use examples of praise and positive language in English. My students seem to really appreciate this.

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