

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ENGLISH COMMUNICATION SKILL OF STUDENTS STUDYING IN GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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ABSTRACT

The importance of the ability to speak or write English has recently increased significantly because English has become the de facto global standard language. Learning English language has become popular for business, commerce and cultural reasons and especially for internet communications throughout the world. The study was conducted using 't' test to compare the communication skill in English, of higher secondary students of Government and Private schools of rural and urban areas of Ghaziabad district.

Keywords: Streams of School Education, Medium of Instruction, Elite Class, Competence, Proficiency, defacto standard, Call centre phenomenon, Cyber-technology

Introduction

The prevailing view across India is that unless students learn English, they can only work in limited jobs. Those who do not have basic knowledge of English cannot obtain good quality jobs. The votaries of English language also claim that without English language proficiency, one cannot communicate efficiently with others, or harvest the benefit of India's rich social and cultural life. Men and women, who cannot comprehend and interpret instructions in English, even if educated, are unemployable. They cannot help with their children's school homework everyday or decide their income options of the future.

In India, there are two basic streams of School Education, namely Government. Schools and Private schools, especially at primary level. Generally, the medium of instruction in Govt. Schools is either Hindi or regional Language and in Private Schools, it is usually English. At Lower Secondary and Higher Secondary level in Government schools, it is generally Hindi and in Private Schools it is usually English (with special reference to Uttar Pradesh). When students enter in the University Education, it is often found that they lack competence in either language the exception being the students coming from elite schools.

The students coming from Govt. Schools are found to be good at spoken Hindi, whereas spoken English is good among the students studying in Private Schools. However, both categories of students lack competence in both the languages, as has been generally observed. In their effort to learn English as a Primary language, the students are not learning either of the languages properly. This may be the consequence of the fact that though they are taught English in schools, they do not get the appropriate environment to practice it at their homes and social set-up to acquire fluency and proficiency in it.

Based on the above observations, I tried to compare the communication skill in English of the higher secondary students of Government and Private schools in rural and urban areas of Ghaziabad district.

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Objectives of the Study

- To study the Status of English Communication Skills of the students studying at Higher Secondary level.
- To compare the English Communication Skills of the students studying at Higher Secondary level in schools in rural and urban area.
- To compare the English Communication Skills of the student studying at Higher Secondary level in government and private schools.
- To compare the English Communication Skills of the students studying at Higher Secondary level in government and private schools in rural area.
- To compare the English Communication Skills of the students studying at Higher Secondary level in government and private schools in urban area.

Hypotheses of the Study

- There is no significant difference between the English Communication Skills of the students studying at Higher Secondary level in schools of rural and urban area.
- There is no significant difference between the English Communication Skills of the students studying at Higher Secondary level in Government and Private schools
- There is no significant difference between the English Communication Skills of the students studying at Higher Secondary level in Government and Private schools in rural area.
- There is no significant difference between the English Communication Skills of the students studying at Higher Secondary level in Government and Private schools in urban area.

Methodology

The present study aims at exploring the status of communication skills in English at higher secondary level. For collecting data, the normative method of research was used.

Sample

Cluster Random sampling technique has been used. The sample of the present study includes 300 students studying at higher secondary level in Govt. and Private schools in urban and rural in Ghaziabad.

Government Schools in Urban Area

- **Kanya Vedic Girls Inter College**
- **S.D. Boys Inter College**

Private schools in Urban Area

- **D.D.P.S. Sanjay Nagar**
- **Greenfield Public School**

Government Schools in Rural Area

- **Sir Chhotu Ram Inter College, Muradnagar**
- **Kailashwati College, Arthala**

Private schools in Rural Area

- **Shaheed Memorial Public School**
- **Mother India Public School**

Tools

To fulfill the purpose of the study, the teacher prepared achievement test for English language and grammar test was constructed and standardized.

Statistical Techniques

The statistical techniques used in this study are the parametric statistics. To evaluate the status of Communication skills the coefficient of correlation was used, whereas, to see the difference between and among groups, the t- test was used respectively.

Analysis and Interpretation

The first objective of the study was to study the status of English communication skill at Higher Secondary level. For this purpose, the scores obtained by the students, were transferred on a seven-point scale. The table shows that the 0.33% students fall in the very poor category. 13% students came under the poor category. 42.67% students are in below average. 29.33% students fall in the average category. 12% students are under good category. 2.67% students fall in the very good category and no student is excellent.

Table: 1**English Communication Skill at Higher Secondary Level at Ghaziabad**

Result in Percentage	Percentage (%)	Category
43-49	0	Excellent
36-42	2.67	V. Good
29-35	12.00	Good
22-28	29.33	Average
15-21	42.67	Below Average
8-14	13.00	Poor
1-7	0.33	Very Poor

Thus, it may be concluded that students studying at higher secondary level are not very well developed in their communication skill in English.

This result shows that the communication skill of English language in District Ghaziabad at higher Secondary level in urban as well as rural areas are not good because no student has excellent skill and 72% has average or below average communication skill in English language.

C.1 Results Related to the Hypothesis – I

To test this hypothesis, the 't'- test was applied. Whole sample was divided into two groups according to the urban & rural students at higher secondary level.

Table: 2**'t' Value between Urban & Rural Students in Higher Secondary Level**

Particulars	Rural School	Urban School
<i>No. of students</i>	150	150
<i>Mean scores</i>	20.43	22.28
<i>Standard deviation (S.D.)</i>	5.85	7.16
SE_D		
<i>df</i>	298	
<i>t-value</i>	2.47	
<i>t-value in table at</i>	.01 level – 2.59	
	.05 level – 1.97	

The result obtained after statistical analysis shows the obtained t-value of 2.47. In the **Table 2**, t- values for degree of freedom 298 at the 0.5 level of significance is 1.97 and at .01 level of significance, it is 2.59. Obtained t-value is significant at .05 level of significance. On this basis ,the null hypothesis is rejected and it has been concluded that the difference between urban & rural students at higher secondary level is significant. Students studying in urban schools are better in their English communication skills.

C.2 Results Related to the Hypothesis –II

To test this hypothesis, 't' test was applied whole sample was divided into two groups according to the Government and Private school students at higher secondary level in Ghaziabad district .

Table: 3**'t' Value between the Government and Private School Students at Higher Secondary Level**

Particulars	Government School	Private School
No. of students	150	150
Mean scores	19.31	23.41
Standard deviation (S.D.)	5.09	7.27
SE_D		
<i>df</i>	298	
<i>t-value</i>	5.69	
<i>t-entries in table (D) at</i>	.01 level – 2.59	
	.05 level – 1.97	

The result obtained after the statistical analysis show that the obtained 't' value 5.69 in the **Table 3**. The t- value for degree freedom 298 at the .05 level of significance is 1.97 and at .01 level of significance it is 2.59. On this basis, the null hypothesis is rejected and it has been concluded that the difference between government and private school students at higher secondary level is significant and English communication

skills of students studying in private schools are better in comparison to English communication skills of students studying in government schools.

C.3. Results Related to the Hypothesis –III

To test this hypothesis, 't' Test was applied. Whole sample was divided into two groups upon criteria of the government and private school at higher secondary level.

Table: 4

't' Test between Rural Government and Private Schools at Higher Secondary Level

Particulars	Rural Government School	Rural Private School
No. of students	75	75
Mean scores	20.06	20.8
Standard deviation (S.D.)	5.05	6.52
SE _D		
df	148	
t-value	0.78	
t-entries in table (D) at	.01 level – 2.61	
	.05 level – 1.98	

The result obtained after statistical analysis shows that the obtained 't' value is 0.78. In the **Table 4**, 't' value for degree of freedom 148 at the .01 level of significance is 2.61 and at .05 level of significance, 1.98. On this basis, the null hypothesis is accepted and it can be concluded that there is no significant difference between students studying in rural government and private schools in regard to English communication skills.

C.4. Results Related to the Hypothesis – IV

To test this hypothesis 't' test was applied whole sample was divided into two groups according to the urban government and private students at higher secondary level.

Table: 5

't' Test between Urban Government and private School Students at Higher Secondary level

Particulars	Urban Government School	Urban Private School
No. of students	75	75
Mean scores	16.02	18.54
Standard deviation (S.D.)	7.08	4.95
df	148	
t-value	7.48	
t-values in table (D) at	.01 level – 2.61	
	.05 level – 1.99	

The result obtained after statistical analysis show that the obtained 't' value is 7.48. In **Table 5**, the 't' value for degree of freedom 148 at the .01 level of significance is 2.61 and at 0.5 level of significance, 1.98. On this basis, the null hypothesis is rejected and it was concluded that the difference between urban private and private schools is highly significant. English communication skills of the students studying in urban private schools are better.

Findings of the study

Findings related to the status of English communication skills of students at higher secondary level in Ghaziabad district are as follows:

1. The competency and the ability of the 0.33% students fall in very poor category. 13% students came under poor category. 42.67% students are in below average. 29.33% students fall in average category. 12% students are under good category. 2.67% students fall in very good category and no student is excellent.
2. It has been concluded that the difference between urban & rural at higher secondary level is significant. Students studying in urban schools are better in their English communication skills.
3. It has been concluded that the difference between government and private school students at higher secondary level is significant and English communication skills of students studying in private schools are better in comparison to English communication skills of students studying in government schools.
4. It has been concluded that there is no significant difference between students studying in rural government and private schools with regard to English communication skills.
5. It was concluded that the difference between urban private and government schools is highly significant. English communication skills of the students studying in urban private schools are better.

Findings of the Study related to speaking Skills

For the present investigation, "Skill Based Achievement Test" was prepared for higher secondary level students in English language to measure their communication skill in English. This Communication Skill test included test of comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, & composition. Although the test is an ideal measure of all communication skills like speaking, reading, & writing, significant effort have been made to adjudge listening & speaking skill in a more reliable way by recording. Hence a short "*Interview schedule*" was developed & audio recording was done to evaluate speaking and listening skill in English language. The interview schedule includes three types of questions as under:

1. *General introductory questions: Name, Class, Hobbies etc.*
2. *Speaking a few lines on some issues such as festivals they celebrate, about the school, any current issue etc.*
3. *Reading a passage*

While analyzing the data following components were taken into consideration (considering the objectives of teaching language).

1. *Vocabulary*
2. *Pronunciation*
3. *Fluency & accuracy*

4. *Stress & Intonation*5. *Punctuation*

By implementing this proposal, the investigators believe, will help in ascertaining the magnitude of each achievement in the study as well as in ascertaining the validity of the hypotheses.

Conclusion

At Higher Secondary level, Mean scores in English communication skill (listening & speaking) was found to be 11.4. The reason behind such skewed result is that the present period is a period of transition. We are constantly emphasizing the need and importance of English language, but our home environment surrounded by mother tongue constantly interferes. Hence, children find themselves free in communicating with Hindi languages in spite of the pressures exerted by the society to adopt English language.

Suggestions

The present study was an attempt to ascertain the status of communication skills at higher secondary level to provide suggestions to enhance the skill. Researcher made an intensive effort to find out the barriers in communicative & competence measures so that the same can be significantly lowered. The researcher purports to provide following suggestions to develop communication skills in English at higher secondary level:-

- Enrich The Organizational Climate
- Parental Concerns
- Exposure to the Real Language
- Pay Heed to Individual Student
- Using Literature
- Encourage Student to Verbalize their Knowledge
- Teaching through communicative Approach
- Application of Skill Approach
- Teacher As Participant in Language Learning Task
- Develop Self Instructional Material
- Exposure to Language Laboratory

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