

English language Proficiency among the Students at Undergraduate Level in Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

As per the mandate of the national policy of education (1968), English is compulsory language in all the school of India. Yet, the language of the students who are just passing out from the schools is remaining not up to the mark. There have been wide spread reports on the decline in the standard of English among under graduate students of Andhra Pradesh and also in the difference in the proficiency level of government and private under graduate students. In the background of such report regarding lack of adequate English proficiency among students, this study has been undertaken to generate evidence on the disparities present in the proficiency level of government and private under graduate students. Using a customized English language test, the study investigates the proficiency level of students in two under graduate college of Andhra Pradesh. The results show that there is a huge gap between the English proficiency level of private English medium under graduate students and government aided regional medium under graduate students. The study also recommends some probable solutions to enhance the English language proficiency among the students of regional medium under graduate students.

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I. Introduction

Today in India, majority of people particularly younger generation, perceive English to be a language of opportunities as all the negotiations at the work place are going on in English. It is also a critical component of education system where it holds considerable position as a second language in the entire school education. Moreover, it is the language of instruction in higher education and also it is officially acknowledge by the constitution of India as one of the official languages of our country.

The knowledge commission report (2006) says that the quality of English language teaching is not good, and also it criticises that the number of teachers or the materials for teaching are neither adequate nor appreciate. Sharan (2012) opines that English is introduced very lately in the schools of rural areas and he denounces it is being taught by unskilled teachers. On the other hand, he convincingly argues that the syllabus particularly in high school level does not meet the needs of the students in order to enhance their language proficiency.

Statement of the problem

There have been different opinions regarding the low level proficiency of English language among the students of government and private secondary schools in Andhra Pradesh by educationists and parents. The present study investigates the disparities regarding the performance among the students between government and private under graduate college and also explores different possibilities to uplift English language ability among the students particularly in the regional medium under graduate college. This paper focuses on three important aspects of language learning i.e. grammar, comprehension and vocabulary.

Aims and Objectives

The present study has been conducted with the main objective of finding out the English proficiency level in grammar, vocabulary and reading comprehension of under graduate students. The present study investigates the proficiency level of students in two selected under graduate students: social welfare residential under graduate students (government funded Telugu medium) private under graduate students (private English medium). These under graduate students are all coeducational and are selected using purposive sampling method. The under graduate students are selected on basis of their year of establishment, their proximity to each other and their students' strength in under graduate students.

Methodology and Procedure of the Research

The data was collected from under graduate students from each college using an online proficiency level of the students in grammar, vocabulary and comprehensive skills. The test was modified to suit the local context of the students, so that better clarity in the question could be achieved. A total of 120 students participated in the survey voluntarily. Out of those 120

Students, 72 were boys and 48 were girls, with the average age being 15. Besides, the participants in the survey have studied English for an average of three years.

Analysis

SWRS performance was the lowest between the two under graduate college. Private under graduate student's performance was the highest in grammar

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II. Conclusion and recommendations

The result of the proficiency test has clearly showed that the Private under graduate students are more proficient than the government under graduate students. The findings indicate that there is a significant difference in the proficiency level of regional medium government and English medium private private under graduate colleges. It seems that the private under graduate colleges are more accountable to their authorities than their counter parts in government under graduate colleges. Hence, these teachers take the extra effort to see it that their students perform better in their studies. Government under graduate colleges teachers are more secure in their jobs and hence, they do not take any extra care to improve their teaching strategies. The responsibility lies entirely on the individual teacher in regional medium government funded under graduate colleges.

On the basis of the key findings of the study, the authors make the following recommendations for researchers, teachers, curriculum designers administrators and policy makers.

Attention should be drawn to the appointment of well trained English teachers in government under graduate colleges to support better language learning.

Language labs with wide varieties of exercise should be introduced in government under graduate colleges to in order to improve the language ability.

Different types of learner centered methods and approaches should be adopted in the process of teaching and learning.

Students should be motivated and inspired to learn English by giving them prizes so that they will be eager to participate attentively in the classroom activities and perform well.

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