

The Impact of Home and School Environment on English Learning with special emphasis on literacy of parents and medium of teaching

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ABSTRACT

The importance of environment in Learning is evident but there are various other factors that govern the English Learning. Two of them are 1) How literate the parents of students are and 2) What is the medium of teaching. With the help of literary review and survey, data has been produced that tells us how these factors impact English Learning. **Both Home Environment (in this context literacy of parents) and School Environment (Medium of Teaching) are important part of English Learning as parents provide motivation to the students and if they are well educated and know the value of English, they will end up inspiring their children as well whereas the students with less educated parents are less interested in learning English.** Whereas the English Medium school provide an environment where students want to learn English as compared to Hindi Medium Schools where students are either reluctant or are not interested in learning it. These topics should be discussed and new reforms should be made to deal with The Problems.

Keywords: Learning Environment, Home Environment, School Environment, Parent Literacy

INTRODUCTION

Environment has a great impact on the outcome of English Learning. This is a proven fact that the mental state of a learner determines the efficiency and the mental state is certainly affected by the learning environment. “A good learning environment can improve learners’ learning effectiveness and motivation and promote the positive development of English Learning” (1). The physical, cultural and social environments are the most talked about topics but the importance of home and school environment can not be neglected. We should try to understand how the educational qualifications of parents and the quality of schools affect the English learning of the students. The study of the educational backgrounds of the parents and the medium of study of the students can help us in understanding the reforms that are required for improving the efficiency of English Learning. The responsibility of forming the base of learning lies on the parents and they should understand the importance of English Learning.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The Research has been carried out using two methods. First one is Systematic Literature Review (SLR). “The SLR technique collects all pertinent information while following specific predefined criteria” (2). Literature

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Review helps us in forming a conducive report by comparing different literary works. Adequate amount of data can be reviewed and analyzed and a better result can be extracted.

The Second method being the survey, although the survey has been conducted within a small area but it gives us an idea of how the lack of education among parents and the medium of teaching affects the learning outcomes of students when it comes to English Learning. Survey provides us the practical image of the actual situation. The survey conducted for this study comprises of the data of 100 students. Survey was conducted by visiting the local schools and finding out the number of students with less educated parents and the students with qualified parents. Also, we went to different schools, one school had English Medium teaching routine whereas other was a government school primarily focused on teaching in Hindi. This gave us the correlation between the less educated parents sending children to Hindi Medium schools and Qualified parents sending children to English Medium School.

In the school we asked students about their interest in learning English. We tabulated the data separately for the students with less educated (less English exposed) parents and the students with qualified parents. Graph and Pie chart was formed for better understanding and the entire was compiled and discussed in the study. The data of 50 students with less educated parents and 50 students with qualified parents was compiled and it helped in understanding the importance of school and home environment in English Learning.

RESULT

It is a fact that the learning environment impacts the learning outcomes. “A suitable learning environment helps learners to concentrate and improve their learning efficiency” [3]. The survey we conducted brought to light some really amazing data. The data has been divided into two parts:

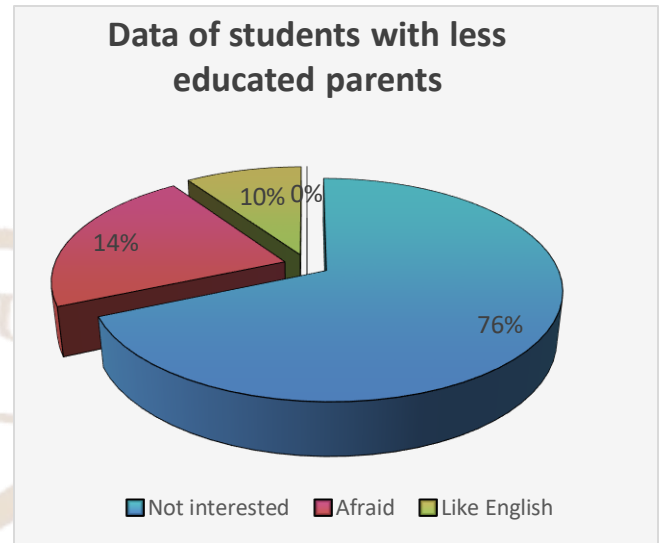
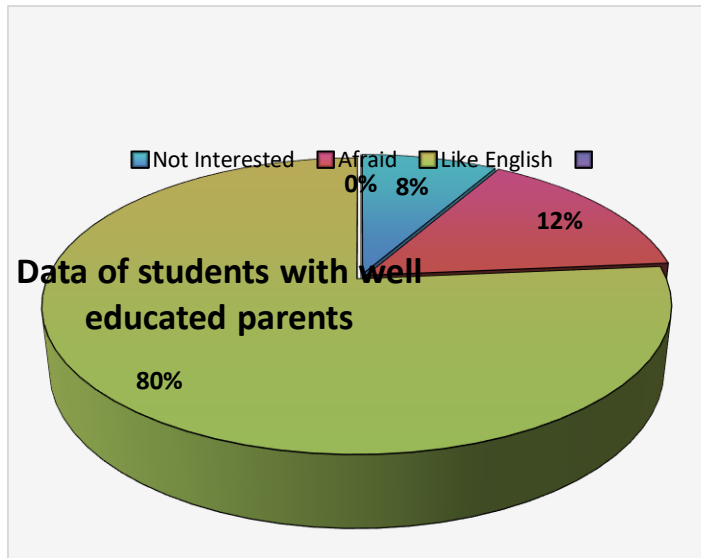
1. **Home Environment** - Data of students with less educated (less English exposed) parents and students with well educated (having English background) parents.
2. **School Environment** - Data of students in Hindi Medium and English Medium schools.

HOME ENVIRONMENT

Data of Students with less educated parents and students with well educated parents:

“Before going to school, children learn all of their formal, informal, and moral information at home” [4]. Parents influence their children a lot and the survey proved that the students with the parents having exposure to English or good educational background tend to have more interest in learning English whereas the students having parents with less or no English exposure and are less educated does not show similar interest and are afraid of English.

When we asked students with well educated parents about their thoughts on English language, the majority replied positively, whereas the students with less educated parents were not interested in learning English or were afraid of it.

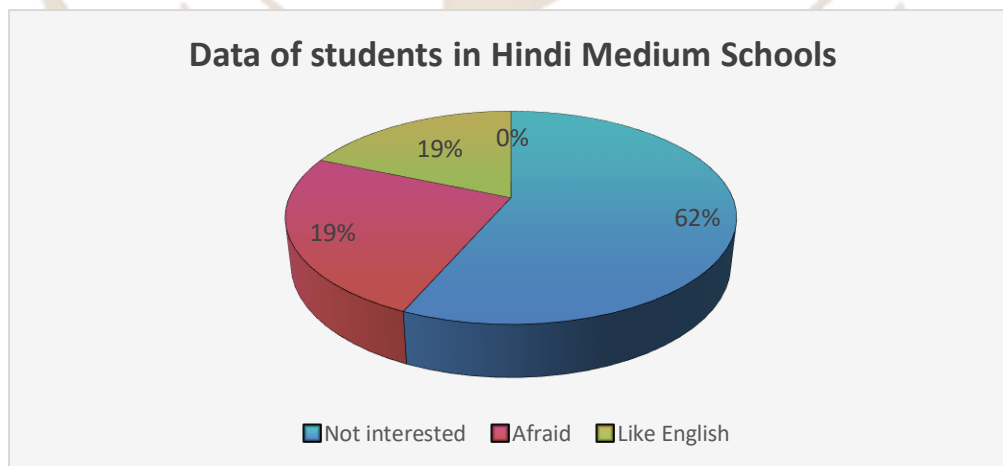


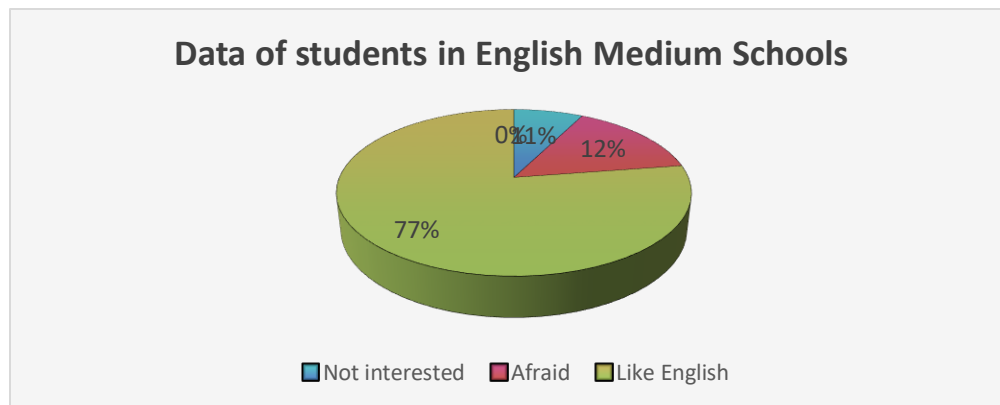
As per the data shown in the above Pie Charts, one can easily understand the fact that the percentage of students liking English learning is very high in the students with well educated parents as compared to the students with less educated parents. Out of 50 students with less educated parents 36 said they are not interested in English Learning whereas it is opposite for students with educated as 40 of them said they like English.

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Data of students in Hindi Medium and English Medium school:

The school environment consist of various factors but here we discussed the medium of teaching. The survey was conducted in both Hindi and English medium schools and hence we got the data of students' thought on English Learning in both contexts.





As the above pie diagram suggest, the students enrolled in an English Medium school are much more interested in learning English as compared to those from Hindi Medium Schools. This itself proves that the medium of education can also affect English Learning at school.

DISCUSSION

The two results drawn from the survey provide us a great understanding of how two small components of environment can affect the learning process. In the first result we found that the more educated parents inspire and motivate their children to go and learn English and hence it increases the interest of the students whereas the less educated parents either do not understand the value of English or are unable to motivate their children. “The home environment significantly impact how kids develop and what they need to learn” [5]. In the second result we understood how the medium of education can affect the thinking of a child. A student in Hindi medium setup doesn’t have interest in learning English whereas the one in the in the English Medium Setup likes English a lot. “The impact of learning environment is obvious. A learning place that is quiet, comfortable, provides rich learning resources and promotes social learning can improve students’ learning effectiveness and motivation” [6]. But not only the learning environment but the environment in home regarding the literacy of parents and the medium of teaching affects the mindset of students. It motivates some whereas some are demotivated to learn English.

LIMITATIONS AND FURTHER SUGGESTIONS

The survey has been conducted at a really small area and the number of students are not enough to prove it as a global phenomenon and hence to make it more relevant, a better survey with more schools and more students can be conducted. This will not only provide a more accurate result but will also help in future reforms.

CONCLUSION

The above research along with the literary review draws a straightforward conclusion. The environment do affect the learning but in case of English, there are various factors that affect the learning process. The data that shows the percentage of students liking English based on the education of parents shows us the drastic reality of parents being an important part of motivating the students and their own intellect affects the entire process.

Whereas the data of students liking or disliking English based on the medium of teaching suggests that the students who are enrolled in a school with no English exposure will always find it difficult to develop interest towards the language. These factors are part of the Learning environment but they are more connected to daily life as well. Students at home should feel familiar to English and even if it is not possible they should at least be told about its importance and prospects and for this knowledge among parents is important. For this purpose many steps can be taken to educate the parents or spread awareness among them regarding the importance of English, right from the time when their child is getting enrolled. When it comes to Medium of teaching, even in the Hindi medium schools English can be promoted by making it a part of daily routine not just as a subject but as a language of conversation as well.

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