

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BOYS AND GIRLS IN LEARNING ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT UNDER GRADUATE LEVEL

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ABSTRACT

Gender discrimination is a major problem in the Indian society during pre-independence and post-independence. In effect, the Indian government specially implemented new committees and commissions for women's education. English language is needed in all fields of Education, Trades, Commerce, Economics, Science and Technology. Indian department of higher education has framed different schemes and projects to improve girls and women's enrolment and participation in education. The main objective of this study is to find out the role of differences between boys & girls in learning English language learning at Under Graduate level in Hyderabad district, Telangana state, India. In this research, the researcher has chosen a structured questionnaire for collecting responses from the samples.

KEYWORDS: Differences, Between Boys and Girls, Learning English Language & Under Graduate Students

INTRODUCTION

Differences in learning is one of the important aspects in education. Different factors influence learning in addition to the innate talent of the individual. Factors such as socio- economic conditions, poor infrastructure in schools and colleges, literacy/ illiteracy of the parents, untrained teaching faculty, and so on play a major role in one's learning. Previous research analyzed many educational differences in school related issues such as socio-economic status and educational resources to mention out of the two most important ones. This research attempts to examine the differences between boys and girls in learning English at the Under Graduate level in Hyderabad district.

Gender Ratio in Hyderabad District

As per the Census of 2011, the total population of Hyderabad district is 3,943,323 of which male and female are 2,018,575 and 1,924,748 respectively. The total percent of literacy in Hyderabad district is 83.25% of which female and male is 79.35% and 86.99% respectively.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

I reviewed firstly according to a study by Dörnyei and Csizér (2005), that male students are less motivated than the girls to learn a second language. The findings shows that girls display superior language attitudes compared to boys across the world. Dörnyei and Csizér found that in many countries, learning a second language is seen by the boys as a "girly" subject. Lupert, Cannon, and Telfer (2004) focused on the population of 7th and 10th grade students of Canada and found that more female students expect to graduate from high school and continue on to college than male students did. So, as many researchers found out that girls are very initiative learners than the boys.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher used a descriptive survey through a structured questionnaire as the main research tool. A sample of 150 UG students, 75 boys and 75 girls are taken from five colleges from Hyderabad district. The students were assisted whenever they needed help while filling up the questionnaire. The questionnaire was carefully drafted keeping in mind the research aim of the study.

DATA ANALYSIS

The analysis and interpretation of the data based on the responses elicited through questionnaire from the sample is presented below.

- I collect material related to the English language. Mostly/ Sometimes/ Never

51% of the boys and 64% girls collected material related to the English language. And, 28% of the boys and 35% of the girls collected material related to the English language sometimes. Whereas, 21% of the boys and 1% of the girls never collected material related to the English language.

It can be realized that from the above response that there exist most of the differences between boys and girls. Girls are better than the boys in collecting material related to the English language. So, girls are hard workers than the boys.

- I ignore distractions and stay focused when studying English? Mostly/ Sometimes/ Never

This question was asked to find out the opinion of respondents about whether most of the girls can ignore distractions and stay focused while studying English. From the response, it is found that 48% of the boys and 51% of the girls ignored distractions and focused on studying English. 31% of the boys and 33% of the girls ignored distractions and focused on studying English sometimes. While 21% of the boys and 16% of the girls never ignored distractions and focused on studying English.

It can be understood from the responses that majority of the girls ignore distractions and focused on studying English compared to the boys. However, girls are better learners than the boys. They can face any situation easily.

- I consult my teacher outside the classroom to clarify my doubts in English. Mostly/ Sometimes/ Never

For the above question, the responses revealed that 61% of the boys and 65% of the girls consulted their teacher outside the classroom to clarify their doubts in English. And, 35% of the boys and 28% of the girls consulted the teacher outside the classroom sometimes. Whereas, 4% of the boys and 7% of the girls never consulted the teacher outside the classroom to clarify their doubts in English.

It can be observed from the above data that there is a little difference between boys and girls. Hence, most of the girls opined that they consult the teacher outside the classroom.

- I read English newspapers. Mostly/ Sometimes/ Never

The above question was asked to find out the opinion of the respondents about reading habits of English newspapers. From the responses, it is revealed that 60% of the boys and 67% of the girls read the English newspaper. And the rest 19% of the boys and 16% of the girls read the English newspaper sometimes. Whereas,

21% of the boys and 17% of the girls never read the English newspaper.

It can be understood from the responses that the majority of the girls read the English newspaper compared to the boys. In comparison to previous days, girls tend to learn more in all departments.

- I try to understand the English language when I see and hear it. Mostly/ Sometimes/ Never

In response to this question, 65% of the boys and 69% of the girls stated that they understood the English language when they see and hear it. Whereas, 28% of the boys and 20% of the girls considered as understood sometimes. On the other hand, 7% of the boys and 11% of the girls felt that they never understood the English when they see and hear it.

It can be observed from the above data there is little difference between boys and girls.

Most of the girls try to understand the English language when they see and hear compared to the boys.

- I want to study English to be at more ease with fellow English speakers. Mostly/ Sometimes/ Never

In response to this question, 61% of the boys and 64% of the girls wanted to study English at more ease with fellow English speakers. And 28% of the boys, 27% of the girls want to study English to be at more ease with fellow speakers sometimes. But, 11% of the boys and 9% of the girls never has shown interest in studying English with fellow English speakers.

It can be interpreted from the responses that the majority of the girls stated that they want to study English to be at more ease with fellow English speakers. This is because girls are physically inferior and mentally superiors than the boys.

- English is as important as any other subject. Mostly/ Sometimes/ Never

For this query, 28% of the boys and 31% of the girls felt English as important as any other subject. And, 32% of the boys and 32% of the girls felt English as an important as any other subject. But 40% of the boys and 37% of the girls never felt English as important as any other subject.

From the above results, it can be drawn that most of the girls felt English as important as any other subject. They preferred as much as other subjects.

- I am interested in learning different languages and their cultures. Mostly/ Sometimes/ Never

48% of the boys and 56% of the girls were interested in learning different languages and their cultures. While 32% of the boys and 28% of the girls were interested in learning different languages and their cultures.

So, it is clear that that majority of the girls were interested in learning different languages and their cultures. Girls take risks any time and in any situation. They have more patience than the boys.

- I plan different activities for myself to accomplish my goal of learning English. Mostly/ Sometimes/ Never

For this question, response revealed that 56% of the boys and 63% of the girls planned different activities to attain their goal of learning English. And, 31% of the boys and 35% of the girls planned different activities of their goal sometimes. Whereas, 13% of the boys and 3% of the girls never made a plan to perform different activities to

accomplish their goal of learning English.

It is also observed clearly that most of the girls plan different activities to accomplish their goal of learning English. The above result reveals that Girls are ever ready to accept any problem and solve it.

- My parents encourage me to practice as much English as possible at home. Mostly/ Sometimes/ Never

For this question, 65% of the boys and 69% of the girls were encouraging themselves to practice English as possible at home. And, 28% of the boys and 27% girls were encouraged by the parents at home sometimes. But, 7% of the boys and 4% of the girls were never encouraged by the parents to practice English as possible at home.

It can be interpreted from the responses that the majority of the girls were encouraged to practice English as possible.

FINDINGS

- 64% of the girls are interested to collect material related to the English language.
- . Girls can ignore distractions and focus on studying English than the boys. A little difference is found between boys and girls
- Most of the girls opined that they consult the teacher outside the classroom to clarify their doubts compared to the boys.
- A majority of the girls read English newspaper compared to the boys. They learn the skills of vocabulary and grammar by reading English newspaper.
- 69% of the girls understand the English language well when they see and hear it. Most of the girls show interest in learning English than the boys.
- Girls want to study English with more ease with fellow English speakers than the boys. A little difference between boys and girls is found.
- A little difference between boys and girls is found in learning English with importance as any other subject, compared to the boys.
- It is also find out that the majority of the girls are interested in learning different languages and cultures than the boys.
- Most of the girls expressed that they plan different activities to reach their goal of learning English.
- 69% of the girls were encouraged by the parents to learn English at home. Majority of the girls were encouraged by the parents compared to the boys.

CONCLUSIONS

It is concluded from the study that differences exist between boys and girls in learning English language at Under Graduate level. The majority of the girls show curiosity in learning English language than the boys. The girls are always ready to take any risk and they can adapt to any environment with patience compared to the boys.

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