
An Investigation of Attitudes and Decision Making Ability of Students of Engineering Colleges: the Study of English Language and their Achievement

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Abstract

The present study is aimed at studying the attitudes and decision-making ability of students of Engineering colleges and their achievement with the study of the English language. So that, a better environment may be formed to maximize student's to get a lucrative job in the competitive world. The main significance of this study is to find out students' attitudes and decision-making ability may be considered as important factors determining the success of getting a job. There exist a significant difference between boys and girls students about their attitudes and decision-making ability. Furthermore, the paper highlights the need and significance of attitudes and decision-making ability among engineering college students at the undergraduate level, which is necessary to empower the effectiveness of students.

Keywords: Attitudes, Decision-Making Ability, Engineering Students, English Language

Introduction

After completion of the undergraduate Engineering programme, professional college students should occupy a pivotal position in their entire structure of education. The four-year degree course plays an important role both as a terminal as well as a preparatory course in the academic and competitive career of a student. The learners at the undergraduate level generally move into different streams of education and employment and their competence in English certainly plays a vital role in building a career. The studying of the English language naturally opens new avenues to employment and a good career.

English language teaching has passed through various stages. The ELT scenario has not strengthened and expanded itself matching with the importance and growing needs of the language. As part of this, Anna University has introduced a language laboratory course entitled, Advanced Reading and Writing, Interpersonal Skills in Listening and Speaking and Professional Communication both in the second and third years of all branches of the degree course. The objective is to lay thrust on not only enhancing the employability and career skills of students but also to develop their confidence and help them attend interviews successfully. Proportionately, the testing and evaluation pattern also has changed. Undergraduate students need to learn to use English proficiency to get jobs and perform well in the work sphere.

Lack of proficiency in English, a large number of students find themselves inadequate when faced with the demands of real-life situations. In the global world, those who cannot communicate well lose out and get much less credit for their achievements than they deserve. To make undergraduate students proficient in the English language, student centred classrooms should be created and the English teaching faculty should turn into soft skill experts.

Statement of the problem

An investigation of attitudes and decision-making ability of students of engineering colleges towards the study of the English language and their achievement in it in Theni District, Tamil Nadu.

Need and Significance

The social and college situations are changing rapidly day-by-day and the methods of studying the English language are also changing continuously. So to meet the present situation, the students should have proper attitudes and decision-making ability and also the students should adopt new methods and techniques in studying English language and thus make themselves much effective in their achievement. If the student has a good attitude and decision-making ability, he/she will bring himself/herself up to the expected levels in every field.

The engineering students of undergraduate level would need to improve their attitudes and decision-making ability with them to reach the attainment level. There is no doubt that if the students don't have attitudes and decision-making ability it affects the teaching-learning situations and reduces the expected outcome. Hence, it is necessary to identify the attitudes and decision-making ability of engineering college students towards the study of the English language. How far the attitudes and decision-making ability affect the studying of the English language? The investigator planned to conduct a study on attitudes and decision-making ability of engineering college students from four rural and urban engineering colleges that are located in Theni District, which is affiliated with Anna University, Chennai.

Study Objectives

1. To study the achievement of boys and girls studying in urban and rural Engineering colleges particularly to the Mechanical branch students in the English language.

2. To find out the attitude of boys and girls studying in urban and rural Engineering colleges particularly to the Mechanical branch students in the English language.
3. To determine the relationship between the attitude of boys and girls studying in urban and rural Engineering colleges particularly to the Mechanical branch students towards the study of the English language and their achievement in it.

Hypotheses

1. The achievement of the student's in the English language studying in urban and rural Engineering colleges particularly in the Mechanical branch students differs significantly.
2. The achievement of boys and girls in English language studying in rural Engineering colleges particularly to the Mechanical branch students.
3. The achievement of boys and girls in English language studying in urban Engineering colleges particularly to the Mechanical branch students.
4. The boys studying in urban Engineering colleges do not show greater achievement in the English language than the boys studying in rural Engineering colleges.
5. The achievement in the English language between boys and girls studying in urban and rural Engineering colleges particularly to the Mechanical branch students differ significantly
6. The students of Mechanical branch studying in urban and rural Engineering colleges differ significantly in their attitudes towards the study of the English language.
7. The attitude of boys and girls studying in urban Engineering colleges towards the study of the English language differ significantly.
8. The attitude of boys and girls studying in rural Engineering colleges towards the study of the English language differ significantly.
9. The attitude of boys and girls studying in engineering colleges irrespective of areas towards the study of the English language differ significantly.

10. There is a positive effect of attitude towards the study of the English language and the achievements of students in English language studying in rural and urban Engineering colleges.

Tools used

1. An achievement test in the English language for the Mechanical branch based on the curriculum of Anna University, Chennai.
2. A Likert-type Attitude Scale is used to measure the attitude of the Mechanical branch students' towards the study of the English language.



Sample

The population for the present study was the Mechanical branch students from four different urban and rural Engineering colleges situated in Theni District that are affiliated to Anna University, Chennai was randomly chosen. The sample consisted of 200 students from the Mechanical branch of rural and urban areas.

Table1. Sample Distribution

S. No	Name of College	Category	Area	Number of Participants	
				Rural	Urban
1	Engineering Colleges Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai in Theni District, Tamil Nadu.	Boys Students	Rural and Urban Engineering colleges	50	50
		Girls Students	Rural and Urban Engineering colleges	50	50

The Technique of Data Collection

The investigator had decided to conduct the test to the students of Engineering colleges affiliated to Anna University, Chennai situated in Theni District, Tamil Nadu. The investigator personally selected four Engineering colleges that are situated in rural and urban areas and met the Heads of the Department one day to seek their permission and time to distribute the questionnaire used for the present study. The investigator met the Mechanical group of students to inform them about the task to be undertaken and the purpose to meet. After received permission from the Heads of the Department of Engineering colleges, all the Mechanical students were clubbed together and were informed about the purpose of the study. A

rapport was established and a well conducive atmosphere was created. The prepared questionnaire was given to the students and asked them to fill the details carefully and simultaneously requested them to read the instructions one by one and were enabled to understand the questions by explaining the example given by the investigator.

Findings

1. After analysis of data, it was found that there was a slightly significant difference between boys and girls students of engineering colleges in respect of their attitudes. Girls showed more attitudes in comparison to boys.
2. A Slightly significant difference was found between the attitudes of students studying in urban and rural locations of the colleges. Urban students showed more attitudes in comparison to rural students.
3. There was found a significant difference between the attitudes found in the students having more and less hard work experience. More hard work experienced students completed their work easily in comparison to less hard work experienced students.
4. There was no significant difference between the boys and girls students of rural and urban engineering colleges in respect to their attitudes. Almost they showed similar attitudes in their hard work experience.
5. There is a significant difference between the attitudes of students studying in urban and rural locations of the self-financing colleges. Urban students showed more awareness in their attitudes in comparison to rural students.
6. There is a significant difference between boys' and girls' students in respect of decision-making ability and boys' students take quick decisions in comparison to girls' students.
7. There was found a significant difference between the decision-making ability of students studying in the urban and rural locations of the self-financing colleges affiliated to Anna University, Chennai. Results showed that students of rural locations take much time to take any decision in comparison to urban area students of self-financing colleges.

8. There is a significant difference between the decision-making ability of students having more and less hard work experience. Less hard work experienced students took more time and experienced students were able to take quick decisions and solve the problems quickly.
9. There were a significant relationship between student's attitudes and decision making ability. It was found that attitude is affected to decision-making ability.

Conclusion

The present study was conducted to investigate the attitudes and decision-making ability of students of engineering colleges towards the study of English language and their achievement at the undergraduate level, as well as to utilize the collected data to determine if there is a significant difference towards studying the English language among students based on their rural and urban areas. The findings revealed by testing hypotheses have important for attitudes. Since students attitudes as found in this study, affects their decision-making ability, their factor must be taken into consideration while admitting students for undergraduate courses. Students' overall attitudes towards hard skills and soft skills should be taken care and it may be utilized for strengthening college performance and also to found out the students who are lacking in desired skill. Students who have positive attitudes and decision-making ability towards the situation around them may be in a better position in their life careers.

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