

# Research on Effects of Demographic Factors on the English Language Learning Among Tribal High School Students

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## Abstract

This study is to examine whether demographic factors of students have any effect on the language learning process among the high school tribal students with special reference to a school in Udhamandalam of Nilgiris district in Tamilnadu. An Experiment has been conducted among class nine students of a tribal school using questionnaire method. It was found that some demographic details such as parent's education and occupation have effect on the speaking and reading habits among the target population. Also yet other factor, family type plays an important role in influencing the students' language learning process. It was found that locality of the tribal students plays no significant role in learning English language productive skills. This experiment was conducted to find out the demographic details of the target population for a doctoral research on using digital learning platforms to enhance the productive skills of high school going tribal students in Nilgiris district of Tamilnadu.

**Keywords:** Second language learning, Demographic factors, Tribal students, Affective factors, learning environment.

## INTRODUCTION

Learning a Language is not a huge task when learning it with interest. Also, when it concern about students learning a language is not the same in all categories. Learning a language differs according to the level of learners. When it is closely associated with teaching second language to the school students it differs according to the medium of learners. Especially, teaching second language to the tribal students it is not an easiest task. There are so many issues which are faced by the tribal students in learning second language. The issues are based not only on their poor learning ability but there are also few which focus on their family background, parent's education, residential, age and gender factor, and few more. Such kind of demographic details can led to poor learning. Among that, parent's education level plays a vital role in the development of their ward's education. Many studies have proven that parent's education and income level pays more attention in their children education. It is believed that only when the parents were an educated can help their children in bringing up. According to the belief it is true, parent's education and family income also plays a similar role in a children education. When it concerns about the tribal people it is entirely different because the parents of the tribal students

have poor education as well as the low income level. These two things can extract a child education. When the situation prevails as like this the teaching might be insufficient for them to develop their language skills. These are the major drawbacks for the poor learning.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

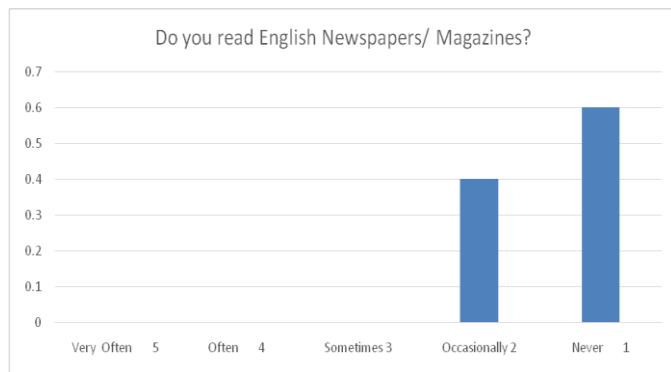
As discussed earlier, language teaching for the tribal students is not an easiest task. They are totally different from the non-tribal students. For e.g., their family background, income level, parent's education, living environment etc., these are the major things which play as a barrier for learning. Not only the education plays a signification role in building up a children education even the family environment and the situation is important. When talking about teaching second language for the tribal student it is entirely different. The way of approaching with teaching methodology must be more effective according to their level of understanding. In this paper the attempt was made to analyse the tribal student's interest towards learning English and how far their demographic situation affects them to learn a language.

## Sample and Population:

The major impact of this paper dealt with how these demographic factors affect the students to learn second language. A pilot was conducted to tribal high school students for the IX grade students. A sample of 25 students was selected for the pilot study. The questionnaire was focused much on their interest towards learning English language. The questionnaire was in the division of two segments which focused on their demographic detail as well as their interest towards learning English. The students were asked fill in their demographic details and following to that the students were also asked to fill the second part of the questionnaire. As when they began with the questionnaire the students filled their personal data and moved to the second part of the questionnaire. The students found the questions were related to their interest towards learning English. Few of the students faced difficulties while learning the given questions. They were not capable to move on with the meaning of the given sentences. So the student asked for the explanation of each questions. The students took maximum time limit to complete the questionnaire.

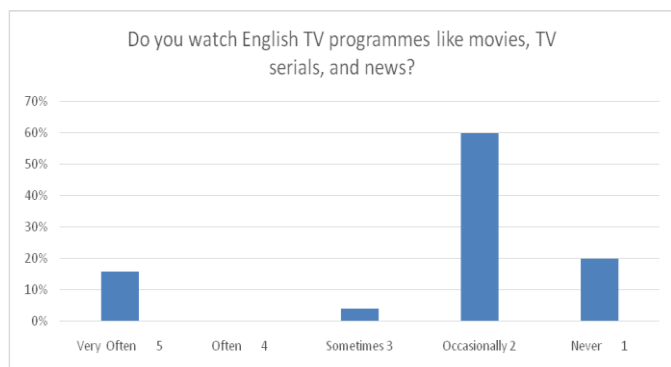
**Analysis and Interpretation:**

The data calculation was done using simple percentage analysis. Most of the student’s background was same and they are from the rural areas. Also, Most of the student’s parents were uneducated and they go for daily wages. The overall data revealed the drawback for their poor education and learning a language. The data shows the students low level of interest towards learning the second language. A simple percentage calculation was done for each question. The simple percentage calculation changes in each phase.



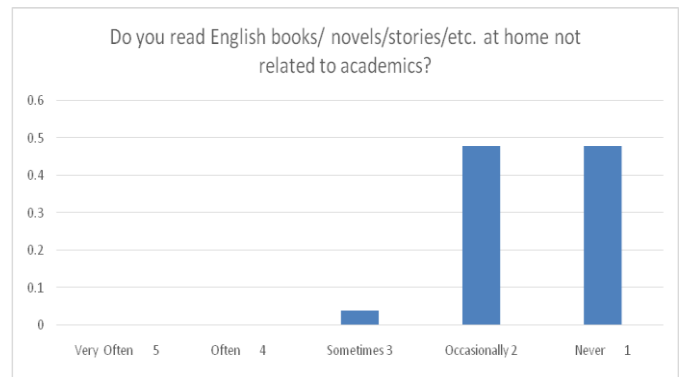
**Chart 1**

From the above chart it is understood that only less than 40% of the students read English newspapers/ magazines in their day-to-day life rest 60% of the students never read or shows any interest towards reading the newspaper/ magazine. This is because their interest towards reading English is undoubtedly low. The chart represents and shows that the other response was not chosen by the students it is because as discussed earlier that it shows the students lackness towards reading in English.



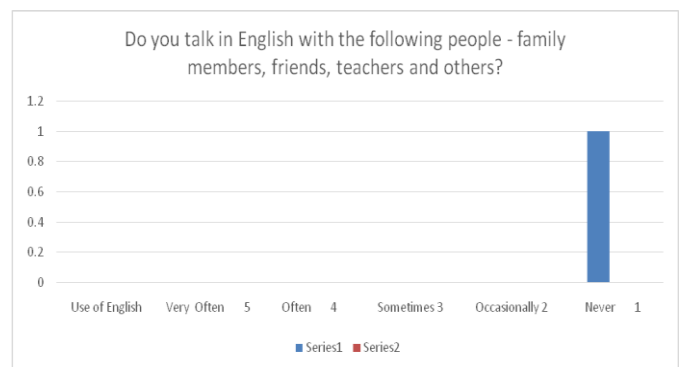
**Chart 2**

In this chart for the above question the response varies. 60% of the students responded that they watch movies, serials and other TV programmes in English. As follows 10% of the students have said they never watch any TV programmes in English. It doesn’t mean that they don’t watch TV programmes but they intentionally avoid watching it in English.



**Chart 3**

From the chart the percentiles for the above question is clear with the response that 48% of the students responded that occasionally they read English books, novels and others and the rest 48% of the students says that they never read any English books, novels, stories and related work materials. The rest 4% of the students read sometimes but not as a full time. They read English books, novels, stories for fun and free time.



**Chart 4**

The chart explains that 100% of the students responded to never, saying that none of the students talk in English with their family members, friends, teachers and others. They never speak in English because of their lack of interest. Also, they are not sure about the usage of language.

**CONCLUSION**

From the above given simple percentage report it is clear that the students level towards learning second language is undoubtedly low and their level of learning is also poor. This is due to the background of the students. The first and foremost issue is parent’s education; this has a significant place in their child education. Also, the family income plays another major role in the children lifestyle. The effect of these issues can affect their learning. According to the data and interpretation the final results says that few of the demographic details has a major part in the language development of the students. Another reason is that the student’s willingness towards learning second language is

limited also they are not looking forward to learn it and they have their mother tongue influence so they find it difficult. It is because they think that the second language is too difficult to understand and they never put their hard work to develop their language. These are the issues which cause major problems in learning a language especially the demographic features.

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