

Project Report

Of

UGC Sponsored Minor Research Project

Titled –

“The Attitudes and Motivation level of High School Students towards English Language Education in Jorhat, Assam: A Detailed Case Study of Selected High Schools of Jorhat Town with a Focus on Understanding the Needs of the Students”

Submitted by

Subhrajyoti Chanda

Assistant Professor

Department of English

Jorhat College, Jorhat

Assam 785001

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PREFACE

The approach to English in schools and colleges – by students and also by a section of teachers – appears to be more as a subject than as a language. The students, particularly those coming from vernacular medium, inevitably turn panicky when it comes to 'Ingrazi bixoi' or English subject. The picture is the same even at the university level. The teachers fear the worst performances of their pupils in English and the student too heave a sigh of relief when they get pass mark in that 'dreaded' subject.

The students' idea of English is limited to the prescribed text book wherefrom a regular set of comprehension questions come in the exam; the idea of grammar is prescriptive and is confined to a 'grammar book' that prescribes rules of narration, voice change, tenses etc. The learners devote a lot of time and energy in understanding and practising the rules as such without bothering to understand their practical use and the bigger task of learning/imbibing the target language. The minor research project primarily aims at problematizing the approach of the high school students (of vernacular and English medium schools) of Jorhat town towards English.

Jorhat is often called the 'knowledge city'/'cultural capital' of Assam, and so it can be supposed that the opinions of the students here regarding English would carry value and, in a big way, would reflect the general mindset of the students of the region. Again, it is a common trend among college and university teachers to pass the buck for the poor performance of students in English to their inadequate grounding at the school level. And, therefore, this 'back to school' approach can be thought of as a significant move towards understanding the minds of the English learners.

The communicative approach is the latest fad in language teaching and the project also aims at understanding the feasibility of the application of it in the typical large classrooms of high schools here. Further, both the qualitative and the quantitative method employed are expected to give a fairly reasonable picture of the students' rapport with English. The statistical responses of students (school wise and also in totality) are given in pie diagrams; and the interviews with the same students complement the statistical data obtained. But it needs to be mentioned that the analysis may have at times been diluted due to time related constraints, nevertheless I am confident that the research work has served its purpose by meaningfully addressing the research question.

I thankfully recall the names of Dr Pabitra pran Goswami, the Principal of Jorhat College; Dr Devabrat Sharma, the HOD, Department of English, Jorhat College; Dr Diganta Phukan, Asst Prof., Dept. of Sociology, Jorhat College for their valuable advice at different stages of research. For any computer related query, I often went to Mr Mohan Dutta, Mr Dhiraj Das and Mr Kanak Sonowal of Jorhat College office and I take this opportunity to thank them. I also express my thankfulness to the Inspector of Schools, Jorhat (for giving me the permission to carry out the questionnaire based survey); the headmistresses / headmasters, the English teachers and the energetic students of the various schools I visited.

Above all, I offer my love and gratitude to Maa, Baba and Piyalee for their moral support in my academic adventures and for their occasional and very necessary prodding to complete my work on time.

Date:

Jorhat College, Jorhat

Subhajyoti Chandra
 (SUBHRAJYOTI CHANDRA)
 Subhajyoti Chandra
 Asstt. Professor
 Dept. of English
 Jorhat College

To
The Inspector of Schools
JDC
Jorhat
Assam

Date: 01.06.2012
Jorhat

Subject: Permission to visit the High Schools of Jorhat Town as a part of UGC Minor Research Project (MRP).

Sir,

I would like to inform you that I have been sanctioned a Minor Research Project titled " **The Attitude and Motivation Level of High School Students towards English Language Education in Jorhat, Assam: A Detailed Case Study of Selected High Schools of Jorhat Town with a Focus on Understanding the Needs of the Students**" by the UGC, NERO, Guwahati.

The endeavour requires visiting the English classes of High Schools in Jorhat, talking with the students and teachers, making a questionnaire based survey, and electronically recording student – teacher interaction. This pre – processing activities would form the key stone of the project. I would therefore request you kindly to grant me permission to visit all the schools (Government/ Provincialized/Private/Under SEBA) to complete my project successfully.

Please find attached a photo copy of the sanctioning letter from the Dy. Secretary, UGC NERO.

Yours sincerely,

Subhrajyoti Chanda
(SUBHRAJYOTI CHANDA)
Assistant Professor
Department of English
Jorhat College
Jorhat, Assam
Phone: 9435093451
E mail: chandasj@gmail.com

*Forwarded for
necessary action*

[Signature]
7.6.12

Principals' & Secretary
Jorhat College (Amal.)
Jorhat - 785001

Memo no. 1922 Dated Jorhat Tue 11/6/12
To, the Principal / Head Master / Head Mistress
(All High / Secondary Schools) Jorhat Dist
you are requested to co-operate with Mr. S J Chanda
Asstt. Prof., Department Eng, Jorhat College providing data
information as required for the research project.

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that Shri Subhrajyoti Chanda, Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Jorhat College visited our institution (~~Lakshmi Union High School~~) and conducted a questionnaire and interview based survey, related to his Minor Research Project (MRP), among High School students.

Jorhat

Date: 09.04.13.

Uma Chakravorty
Principal/H.M.

Headmistress
Uma Chakravorty
Lakshmi Union High School
Thana Road, Jorhat

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that Shri Subhrajyoti Chanda, Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Jorhat College visited our institution (~~JORHAT GOVT. GIRLS' H. S. & M. P. SCHOOL~~) and conducted a questionnaire and interview based survey, related to his Minor Research Project (MRP), among High School students.

Jorhat

Date: 03.4.13.



S. Subhrajyoti
Principal/H.M.
Principal HC
Govt. Girls' H. S. & M. P. School
JORHAT

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that Shri Subhrajyoti Chanda, Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Jorhat College visited our institution (*Govt Boys' HS*) and conducted a questionnaire and interview based survey, related to his Minor Research Project (MRP), among High School students.

Jorhat
Date:

[Signature]
13/03/2013
Principal/H.M

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that Shri Subhrajyoti Chanda, Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Jorhat College visited our institution (*Don Bosco, Lichimbari*) and conducted a questionnaire and interview based survey, related to his Minor Research Project (MRP), among High School students.

Jorhat
Date: 13.03.2013

[Signature]
Principal/H.M
DON BOSCO HIGH SCHOOL
LICHIMBARI
JORHAT

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that Shri Subhrajyoti Chanda, Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Jorhat College visited our institution (Jorhat Polytechnic High School) and conducted a questionnaire and interview based survey, related to his Minor Research Project (MRP), among High School students.

Jorhat
Date:

[Handwritten signature]
12/03/13

Principal/H.M

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that Shri Subhrajyoti Chanda, Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Jorhat College visited our institution (Jorhat Polytechnic High School) and conducted a questionnaire and interview based survey, related to his Minor Research Project (MRP), among High School students.

Jorhat
Date:

[Handwritten signature]
12/03/13

Head Master
The Jorhat Polytechnic High School
Provincialised, Jorhat