

# Assessment of Knowledge and Attitude Among Dental Students in Developing their English Language Communication Skills

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**Abstract:** In 21st century students live in an over demanding world where communication is very important. The present study was carried out to determine the attitudes among 200 students about English language communication skills in Mamata Dental College. This paper tries to explore and analyze the knowledge and attitude of dental students to improve their communication skills.

**Keywords:** English communication skills, knowledge, personality, students.

## 1. Introduction

India is a second most populated country where there are 29 states which speak different languages in which Hindi is our National language and English is our International language, apart from regional languages.

Most researchers say that, speaking is one of the four major skills necessary for effective communication in any language, so speaking should be developed which enhances the integrated skills and confidence to present themselves in the society to understand spoken utterances and give appropriate answers (By MV. Yulia Morozova) [2].

The American secretaries commission on achieving necessary skills report [SCANS, 1992] identify speaking and listening, as two of Eight essential competencies necessary for success in three work place [3].

English has displaced other languages and became the leading means of communication worldwide. The developing world demands good communication skills.

Even though we come from different language backgrounds and different mediums in our schools and colleges, learning to speak in English and having good communication skills is very fetching for faster development. As our dental exams, seminars and teachings are done in English, knowledge and attitude about learning English language and communication skills is a key requirement of today's world [1]. In this context the aim of the study is to assess the knowledge and attitude to define the strength and weakness on English language communication

skills and to learn new methods in education which helps to overcome the language barrier.

### A. Objectives

- 1) To assess the knowledge and attitude among dental students on developing English language communication skills based on Age.
- 2) To assess the knowledge and attitude among dental students on develop English language communication skills based on Gender.
- 3) To assess the knowledge and attitude among dental students in developing their English language communication skills based on Year of study.

## 2. Methodology

A cross sectional study was conducted among students of Mamata Dental College, Telangana. Study was conducted among 200 students in July 2019 and ethical clearance was taken from Institutional review board of Mamata Dental College. A self-structural questionnaire was prepared and distributed among 2<sup>nd</sup> years, 3<sup>rd</sup> years, 4<sup>th</sup> years, Interns, Post graduates of Mamata Dental College, Khammam.

The questionnaire included the demographic data, knowledge and attitude among dental students in developing their English language communication skills. After explaining the study objectives, written content was obtained from each student and they were requested to complete the questionnaire.

### A. Inclusion Criteria

Inclusion criteria for the study includes young adults of age ranging 19 – 29 years who can understand English language and students present on the day of study and consenting to participate in the study.

### B. Exclusion Criteria

The students who are not present on the day of the study and who didn't volunteer to participate in the study were excluded.

### 3. Statistical analysis

Response of the students were entered into Microsoft Excel.

Statistical analysis was performed by using spss25. Chi Square test was used to find the association among categorized values. The level of significance was set at  $P < 0.05$ .

### 4. Survey results

Overall 200 students i.e. 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 3<sup>rd</sup> year, 4<sup>th</sup> year, Interns, Post graduates were included in the study. The Mean age of the students is 22.95 and Standard deviation is 2.143.

Majority of population participated in the survey were interns 47% and most of them were females i.e. 77.5%.

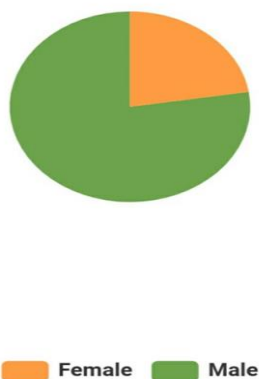


Fig. 1. Gender

Table 1

Socio demographic characteristics of the study population, Mamata Dental College 2019

Variables		Frequency	Percentage
Year of study	IInd year	17	8.5%
	IIIRD year	12	6%
	IVth year	46	23%
	Interns	94	47%
	PG'S	31	15.5%
Total		200	100%

Table 2

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	151	75.5%
No	19	9.5%
Maybe	30	15%
Total	200	100%

In the above table, 75.5% of students think that English is a must to be known as it is an international language and only 9.5% of students think that English is not necessary to be known. A statistical significant difference of 0.001 [ $P < 0.05$ ] was observed.

Table 3

	Frequency	Percentage
Listening	40	20%
Speaking	141	70.5%
Reading	10	5%
Writing	9	4.5%
Total	200	100%

In the above table, 70.5% of students would like to improve Speaking skills while 5% of students would like to improve Reading skills. A Statistical significant difference of 0.025 [ $P < 0.05$ ] was observed.

Table 4

	Frequency	Percentage
English	43	21.5%
Mother tongue	58	29.0%
Both	99	49.5%
Total	200	100

In the above table, 49.5% students would like to speak both in English and their Mother tongue and only 21.5% of students would like to speak in English. A statistical significant difference of 0.01 [ $P < 0.05$ ] was observed.

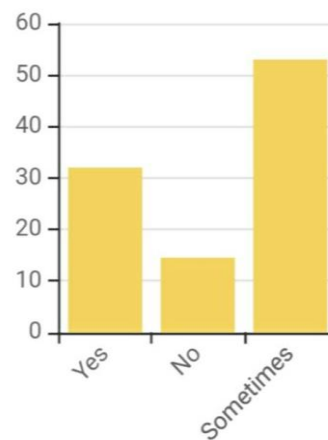


Fig. 2.

When students were asked whether they would like to speak in English with their friends/colleagues, 53% of students reacted that they would like to speak sometimes in English with their Colleagues/friends and only 14.5% are willing to speak in English. A statistical significant difference of 0.025 [ $P < 0.05$ ] was observed.

### 5. Discussion

Developing English communication skills among has become an Important and very useful tool in modern society. English has become easier to learn than ever before with availability of many resources. Students feel shy to speak in English because they are afraid of making mistakes.

But students must overcome this thought and learn to speak English with good communication skills which helps students them to excel in their future and to communicate with people of other nations, when they do not know their mother tongue. Not only that but English is known as international language which but learning helps to participate in various exams throughout the world and could help to cut the language barrier.

In my study, most of the students i.e. 70.5% out of 200 students of Mamata Dental College would like to improve their

speaking get skills and the variables vary drastically when compared to others. Mamata Dental students in which 48% were willing to develop their communication skills through Audio- visuals while the variables vary drastically when compared pardon others.

### **6. Conclusion**

This study concludes that the students of Mamata Dental College prefer to speak sometimes in English and sometimes in their mother tongue and they are confident enough to speak in English in a crowd, when they are given a chance and the student's do not feel low when someone speaks to them in English.

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