Problems Faced By The Rural Students In Writing Skills

Rajani Devi, Research Scholar, Bansthali Vidyapith Rajasthan
And Assistant Professor of English, Ahir College, Rewari
Tamishra Swain, Associate Professor of English, Bansthali Vidyapith, Rajasthan

Abstract: Among all the four skills required for a good communication, Writing skills are considered major skills as today the world has become text-oriented. Many researches are taking place now-a-days in various skills and the level of in various skills in educational institutes as well in business area. This study is an attempt to find out the problems faced while learning Writing skills by the students of five government senior secondary schools located in rural areas of Rewari District of Haryana as writing is more difficult than other skills.

Introduction: in Oxford Living Dictionaries, writing is a sequence of letters, words, or symbols marked on a surface. Many researchers and theorists have been trying to define writing. One of them, the definition put forth by Brown is writing is another form of spoken language that is represented graphically and symbolically. In words of Chakraverty and Gautum writing involves cognition. It demands a lot of time for thinking and reflecting on a given topic. It requires the writer to analyze and classify the background knowledge. Same thoughts have been put forward by Nunan, he says that writing is an extremely complex, cognitive skill for everyone because in this activity the writer has to show the control of some variable simultaneously. Thus it can be concluded that writing is a process of the way people express their ideas using language symbols.

While commenting upon the reasons for writing, Raimes (17) seeks our attention. He says through writing learners can learn new and unseen sentence structures or words no matter if these are right or wrong. According to him the learners find out new ways and techniques to write and express themselves. They also learn the ways to get appropriate words or structures while writing. However this is not the only purpose of writing. According to Hedge (18) the aim of successful writing is not only to produce clear and correct sentences but also to write accurately and creatively. Zamel had a different point of view and says that writing can be considered as a process of discovery of the way to compose a piece of writing.

Significance of the Study: in the education system of India, learning English language is given priority. This language has become the chief medium of instruction in all over India; even academic achievement of the students is measured on the basis of the written examination. All the subjects in English medium schools have to be attempted in English language. Hence the need of acquiring good writing skills arises.

Statement of the Problem: keeping in view the low efficiency of the government school students in English writing skills, the researcher feels the need to find out the problems existing in the acquisition of the writing skills in English among the 5 government senior secondary schools of rural based schools of Rewari District of Haryana.

Limitation of the Study: this study is confined to the selected students of the government senior secondary schools located in rural areas of Rewari district only.

Literature Review: many studies are taking place in the field of language and its skills, in order to show the authenticity and support my research the following studies are being incorporated: Uma Nambiar (2006) conducted an experimental study to develop the written English of elementary students from rural Kerala. This study shows a comparative study of the performances of the boys and girls as well as the rural and urban students. A considerable difference was noted between the students of rural and urban areas students in terms of writing skills. Yaakob Shahrohan Binti(2015) tried to investigate the factors affecting students writing skills in primary school in Gombak Selangor. The findings of the study revealed a number of factors that create problems for the development of writing skills. Shortage of vocabulary, incorrect sentence structure, disinterest to write, lack of reading and quality time to practice writing were found to be main causes in the development of writing skills. Nabeela Sanjana Chowdary(2015) also tried to find out the problems faced by the students at secondary level. The participants were the teachers and students of standard six and seven. For the study the tools that were used to conduct study were class observation, students' interview and assessment of the students. In this study it was observed that grammatical errors are the major problems for most of the students.

Methodology:

For conducting any authentic research a researcher need some reliable tools. In my present study, I have opted quantitative method. For this I used SPSS software and followed descriptive statistics to analyze the collected data. As the primary data, the researcher visited 5 government senior secondary schools located in rural areas of Rewari District. These villages are: Hansaka, Masani, Kharkhara, Dharuhera and Bhudpur. The researcher distributed questionnaires to the students of these above mentioned schools. The questionnaire includes 10 questions: 1.She said to me, "Who are you?" (change the sentence into indirect speech). 2. Rakesh said to me, "I met your Principal yesterday." (change the sentence into indirect speech). 3. The thief stole my pen. (change the sentence into passive voice). 4. Do you like bananas? (change the sentence into passive voice). 5. Add the Question Tag: Ravina is a beautiful girl. 6. I love to read English novels. (identify I as noun, pronoun and adverb and adjective). 7. He did not attend his class yesterday. (identify tense in the sentence). 8. She has been...to the market. (fill in the blank). 9 we celebrate children's day... 14th Nov. of every year. (use appropriate preposition). 10 write 5 lines on yourself.

Table No. 1. Questions to test the Writing skills of the students

		Minimu	Maximu		Std.	
	Ν	m	m	Mean	Deviation	
She said to me, "Who are you?"	10	1	3	1.43	.524	
Rakesh said to him, "I met your Principal yesterday."	10	1	3	1.13	.375	
The thief stole my pen. (Change voice)	10	1	3	1.19	.430	
Do you like bananas?	10	1	3	1.28	.556	
Choose the right option of Question tag in the given sentence:	10	1	3	1.33	.501	
I love to read English novels. In this sentence "I" is a	10	1	3	1.32	.498	
He did not attend his class yesterday. In this sentence which tense has been used?	10	1	2	1.19	.399	
She has beento market.	10	1	3	1.40	.557	R
We celebrate Children's Day14th Nov. of every year.	10	1	3	1.18	.454	٠,
Write only 5 sentences on yourself	10	1	2	1.17	.379	
Valid N (listwise)	10					

Table No. 1 provides the list of the asked questions in the questionnaire; there are 10 questions to check out the writing proficiency of the students.

Findings:

The study includes 50 students of 5 government senior secondary schools located in Rewari district of Haryana state. The researcher finds that the students find a lot of problems in writing skills. The researcher observed that the students were quite hesitant in taking questionnaire and when they come to question no. 10 where they had to write on themselves, mostly of them felt reluctant and even left the question. The students are not aware of the basic grammatical knowledge hence they encounter a lot of problems.

1JCR

Discussion:

Keeping in view the findings of the survey, the researcher observes that the students are not aware of the grammatical structure. When they were asked to answer the MCQs they were ready to respond, but when it comes to write 5 or 6 lines to introduce themselves, most of the students felt hesitant and some of them did not even write a single line. The students who wrote 3 or four lines had some spelling and grammatical errors. The survey shows very poor performance of the students basically in writing skills.

References:

Chakraverty, A., and Gautum, K. Dynamics of Writing. Forum, 38 (3)2000.

Chodhary, Nabeela Sanjana. Observing writing classes to Explore Students writing problems: a secondary level Scenario of EFL Class. Master's Thesis. 2015.

Hedge, T. Teaching and Learning in the Language Classroom Oxford University Press: Oxford, 2000, 12th ed. Print.

Nambiar, Uma, N.A. An Experimental Study to assess the effectiveness of intervention on the writing skills in English. Doctoral Dissertation.2006.

Nunan, D, Designing tasks for the communicative classroom. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge,1989. Print.

Raimes, A. Techniques in teaching Writing. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1994. 3rd ed.

Yakoob, Shahrohan Binti. Factors Affecting Students writing skills in primay schools. Master's Thesis. 2015.