

Social Profile Of The Learners At The Primary Schools In Karnataka:

Dr.Sharanappagouda L Patil,
Assistant Professor of English,
Government First Grade College, Hungund-587118 Karnataka,

Abstract:

In the year 2007, the Government of Karnataka implemented the English as a second language from the first standard in Non-English Medium schools. Here, I try to analyze the opinions of the stakeholders such as teachers, parents, learners, inspecting authorities and administrators in this article. The opinions of the stakeholders that I sketch here are based on the data that I have collected through the questionnaires and ethnographic interviews. My intention here is to test whether the opinions of the stakeholders meet the objectives set by the Government and policy makers or not. The Government has already declared that it had passed the order after the serious discussions relating to the implementation of the policy of teaching English from the first standard on the public demand, and it has quoted the findings of surveys in the field of English language teaching. But some of the intellectuals blamed the Government's action and complained that it was an act to secure vote bank and it did it to please capitalists. So, here I want to know the mindset of public/stakeholders towards English language and correlate it with the official objectives.

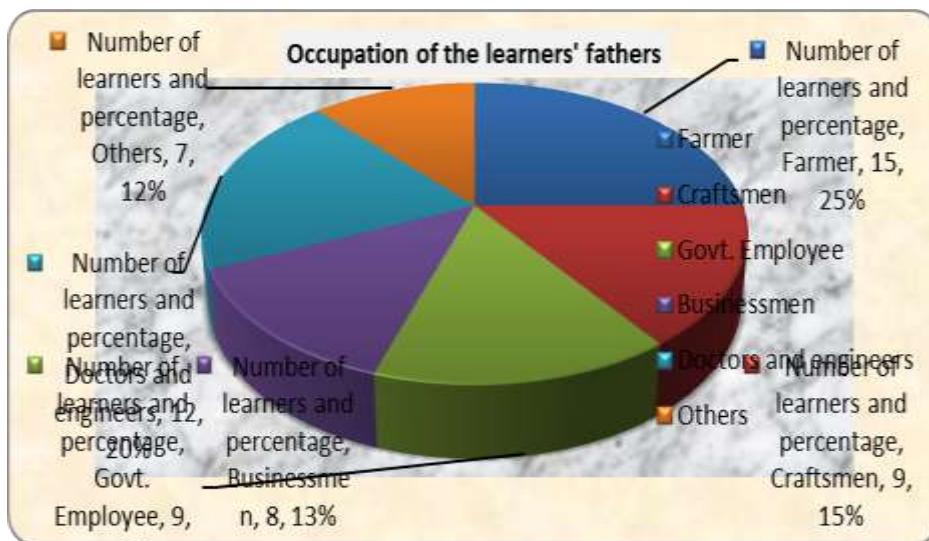
Key words: ELT, Occupation, Profession, Tuition, profile

In this chapter, I am going to present the social profile of the learners. My intention here is to know the status and eligibility of the learners and to see if they are competent to learn the English language or not.

Table No: 1.1. Distribution of the respondents (learners) based on the occupation of the learner's father

Sl. No	Father's Occupation	Number of learners and percentage
1	Farmer	15 (25%)
2	Craftsmen	09 (15%)
3	Govt. Employee	09 (15%)
4	Businessmen	08 (13%)
5	Doctors and engineers	12 (20%)
6	Others	07 (12%)
	Total	60 (100%)

Graph No: 1.1. Distribution of the respondents (learners) based on the occupation of the learner's father



Occupation of the learner's mother: The below data shows that 45% of the learners' mothers were housewives, 25% of them were craftswomen, 15% of them were government employees, 10% of them were doing business and 5% of them were doctors and engineers.

Table No: 1.2. Distribution of the respondents (learners) based on the occupations of the learners' mother

Sl. No	Mother's Occupation	Number of learners and percentage
1	Housewives	27(45%)
2	Craftswomen	15(25%)
3	Govt. Employee	09(15%)
4	Business women	06(10%)
5	Doctors and engineers	03(5%)
6	Others	00(0%)
Total		60(100%)

Graph No: 1.2. Distribution of the respondents (learners) based on the occupations of the learners' mother

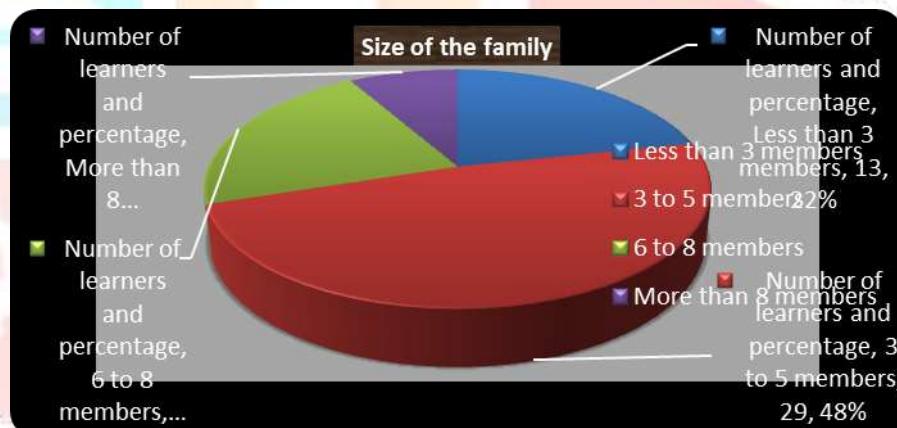


Size of the learner's family: As the table below shows that the 22% of the learners were residing in a three member family, 48% of the learners were residing in a family consisting of 3 to 5 members, 22% of the learners were residing in a family of 5 to 8 members and 8% of the learners were in joint families where there were more than 8 members.

Table No: 1.3. Distribution of the respondents (learners) based on the size of the family

Sl. No.	Number of family members	Number of learners and percentage
1	Less than 3 members	13 (48%)
2	3 to 5 members	29 (22%)
3	6 to 8 members	13 (8%)
4	More than 8 members	05 (22%)
	Total	60 (100%)

Graph No: 1.3. Distribution of the respondents (learners) based on the size of the family

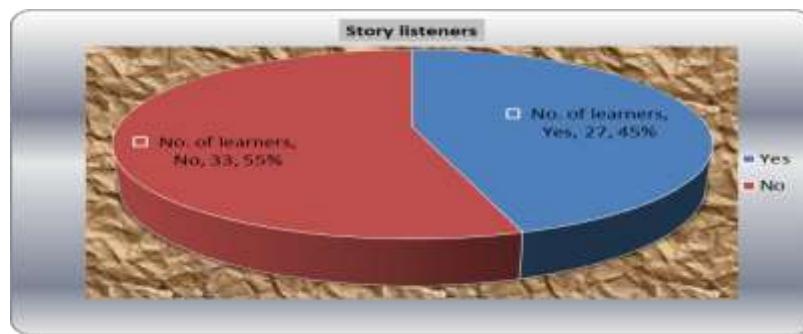


Story listeners: The table below shows that 55% of the learners in my sample were not in touch with stories. 45% of them knew the meaning of story and they were acquainted with stories in their home language at their homes. I enquire about this aspect in order to know whether the learners had the habit of listening to stories or not as English language teaching from the first standard begins with the narration of stories.

Table No: 1.4. Distribution of the respondents (learners) based on the habit of listening to stories

Sl. No.	Story listening	Number of learners and percentage
1	Yes	27 (45%)
2	No	33 (55%)
	Total	60 (100%)

Graph No: 1.4. Distribution of the respondents (learners) based on the habit of listening to stories

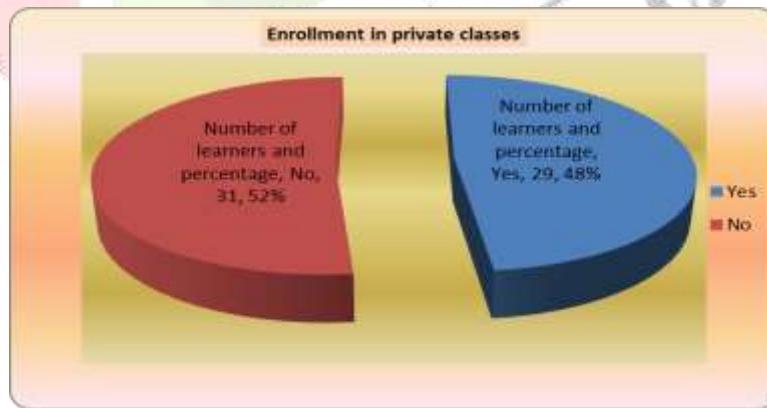


Enrollment in Private classes: The table below shows that 48% of the learners were enrolled in private classes apart from school tuition and 52% of them solely depended on classroom tuition. Most of the learners who were taking the private classes were from urban area. It was very less in rural and other areas.

Table No: 1.5. Distribution of the respondents (learners) based on the enrollment in private classes

Sl. No	Enrollment in private classes	Number of learners and percentage
1	Yes	29 (48%)
2	No	31 (52%)
	Total	60 (100%)

Graph No: 1.5. Distribution of the respondents (learners) based on the enrollment in private classes



Conclusion:

The learners who are the beginners use English language less at their homes. The learners who are multi-lingual and whose parents are highly educated use English more often than that of other learners. Most of the learners are in multi-lingual environment. But there is a lack of environment of English language and its use at home,

school and outside. The learners from the urban area, the learners whose parents are highly educated and working in government sectors, business persons, doctors and engineers use English language more at their homes, schools and outside than the other learners.

Totally, through this data, we come to know that the exposure to English language is very less in the stakeholders' environment; even though they welcome the Government's decision of implementing English language teaching from the first standard in Karnataka.

Reference:

- Based on DVD materials Ethnographical Survey
- Based on Interviews
- Based on Questionnaire

