

Enhancement of Composition Skill in English through Package and Worksheets in Class - 8

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Abstract

English is the most widely spoken and written language in the world. Action Research is the process of identifying the problem and provides an immediate solution to that problem. The investigator identifies the problem that most of the students in 8th standard are not able to write the composition exercises by their own. Improving the writing skill among the students is the major responsibility of an English teacher. So the investigator constructed the package and worksheets as an aid and provide guidance to the students in composition writing English. The package contains the elaborate details and needed skills of composition writing. The worksheets contain the simple activities and needed vocabulary for composition writing in selected topics. 20 students from 8th standard were taken for the study. The student's performance in the pre-test was poor and messy. The intervention strategies were given to the students continuously. After certain duration, the post-test was conducted. The results showed the effectiveness of the continuous practice of the students. This result supported the concept that the language acquisition is a skill which could be obtained through regular and constant practice.

Keywords

Enhancement: improvement

Composition: the proportion of different parts to make a whole. An essay.

Skill: to have knowledge or comprehension, to have personal or practical knowledge.

Package: something which consists of various components or elements.

Work Sheets: a sheet of paper or computerized document on which problems are worked out or solved and answers recorded.

Intervention: special strategy or method or activity to improve the existing method.

Introduction

English is the most widely spoken and written language in the world. Language is the most important aspect of our being. It is equally important to learn other languages to enrich our knowledge and communication. When we want to travel the world, either for business or pleasure, language is important. In India, English is an official language and most of the government communication is carried out in the English language. Many books, manuals, newspapers, letters, emails and information are written in English.

Action Research is the process of identifying the problem and provides an immediate solution to that problem. In schools, Action Research refers to a wide variety of evaluative, investigative, and analytical research methods designed to diagnose problems or weakness and help educators to find out the practical solutions to solve them quickly and efficiently.

Statement of the Problem

Teaching and learning in English as a second language is quite a hectic and hard task, from the British period to present age. The problems faced by the English teachers in the government schools are immeasurable. The investigator identifies the problem that most of the students in 8th standard are not able to write the composition exercises by their own. From the primary level, most of the students are practicing the root memory method rather than comprehend the text. So they are lagging in writing composition which needs the individual and imaginative thinking. They are probably copy from the board or from the one who has written well. So the investigator decides to provide aid and guidance to support the students in composition writing.

Reasons for the Problem

1. Lack of extensive reading
2. Lack of grammar knowledge
3. Lack of vocabulary
4. Uncertainty in topic selection
5. Lack of syntax
6. Less opportunity for creative writing in early classes.

Need for the Study

Writing composition is one of the good practices in the development of language learning. Composition writing creates the imaginative power and individual talent of the students in English. Giving a good practice in composition writing will be helpful to the students throughout their life. Proper knowledge in composition writing will help the students to handle their professional life in progressive way.

Objectives of the Study

- To develop the right attitude in composition writing among the students
- To make the students to realize the need and importance of composition writing.
- To enable the students to write the composition by their own with the help of package and work sheets.
- To create awareness on writing English among the students.
- To help the English teachers by providing the package for future classes.

Hypothesis

The writing composition skill of the students of standard VIII will be enhanced through regular practice with package and worksheets.

Research Plan

- a. **Sample selection:** Panjayat Union Middle School, Ambilikai, Oddanchatram block, Dindigul District
- b. **Design of the study:** Pre-test – Treatment – Post-test.
- c. **Statistical Technique:** Average and Percentage analysis

Tool of the Study

The investigator used the package and the work sheets as a tool for the enhancement of composition skill among the students. This package includes the importance of composition skill, basic details about composition, need of composition skill, types of composition, and so on.

The work sheets contain the basic vocabulary needed for the topic, sentence structure for composition writing, and simple model structures for composition writing. With the help of the package, the students are able to understand the need and importance of composition skill. The work sheets help the students to practice the exercises regularly. The continuous touch with the work sheets helps the students to get familiar with those words and sentence structure. In due course of time, they were able to write the composition by their own.

Research Methods

Pre Test

The investigator selected the Panjayat Union Middle School, Ambilikai, Oddanchatram block, Dindigul district. The pre-test was conducted among the total 20 students. The investigator asked the students to write any one of their favorite leader and favorite place without giving any instructions and guidelines. All the students are written about their favorite place and leader in each one page. The investigator collected the papers and evaluated the papers. The pre-test ascertained the actual composition knowledge of the students. After the evaluation, the score of the students are almost same.

No major difference between the performances of the students. Almost all the students need to improve their composition skill in the given topic, 'My favorite Person' and 'My Favorite Place.' The investigator decided to apply the interventions to all the students in the class. Total 20 students are taken for the treatment.

Treatment

The investigator designed the package and worksheets for the betterment of composition writing among the students.

The package contains the following instructions,

- Introduction about the composition writing
- Need and importance of the composition skill
- Types of composition writing
- Models for composition writing
- Guidelines for writing composition
- Needed skills for composition writing
- Ways to improve the basic skills of composition writing
- General instructions

The investigator constructed specific work sheets for writing composition for 'my favorite leader' and 'my favourite place' which are the basic

things in writing composition. These work sheets will be helpful to the students for regular practice of composition writing. These worksheets contain cloze paragraphs about the particular topics. The students are instructed to read the paragraphs and fill up the blanks with suitable answers by their own. The favorite person and the place should be varied from student to student. Through this practice, the imaginative power and the creative skill would be developed. With the help of the worksheets, every student would be able to write a composition by their own. The real success of this treatment lies upon the regular practice of the worksheets.

Post Test

In order to verify the impact of the interventions, the investigator conducted the post-test after the due course of time. Continuous practice of worksheets, made the students to attend the composition in easy manner. Particularly the topics of 'My favorite person' and 'My favorite place.' Students are interested to write the composition with the assistance of worksheets. In due course of time, they were familiar with the work sheets. They have attended the post-test enthusiastically.

Data Analysis

Graph 1: pre-test and post-test achievement figures

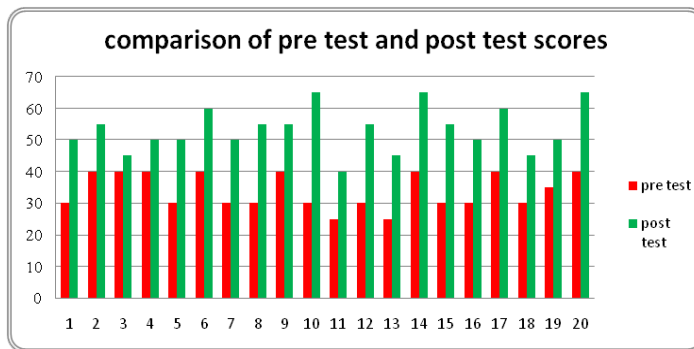
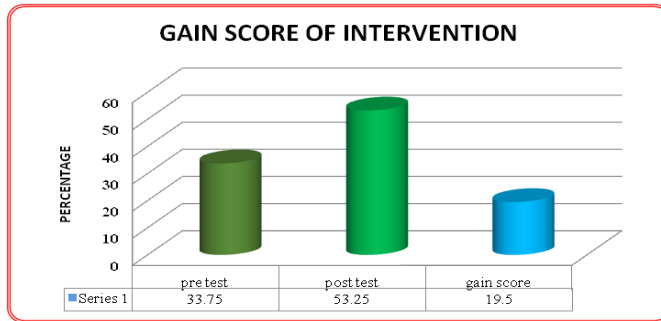


Table 1: Gain score between the pre-test & post-test

| Test | Number of Students | Average Marks | Gain Score |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------|------------|
| Pre-Test | 20 | 33.75 | 19.5 |
| Post-Test | 20 | 53.25 | |

Graph 2: Gain score of Intervention



Findings and Discussions

- The post-test scores reveal the positive impact on the intervention what has given to the students. Even though the interventions brought out the good results, it was not so effective in all the students. Among the 20 students, ten students are secured comparatively good scores in the post-test.
- There are individual differences among the students who have undergone the treatment. At the end of the process nearly 5-6 students were not able to follow the instructions and still, they were secured the poor score.
- The investigator tried to found out the actual reasons behind the poor performance.
- There are so many factors are influencing behind the poor performance of the students, they are,
 - Negative attitude on English
 - Less interested in attending the classes
 - Lack of time to work out the practice sheets in home due to household works.
 - Nonco operative nature with friends and teachers
- The investigator decided to conduct the personal counseling sessions to the students individually to overcome those problems.

Recommendations

Education is an innovative process which includes skill development and creativity. In English among the four skills, writing becomes more essential in all sectors. Students should develop their writing skill from the elementary level. Writing composition helps to develop the student's creativity and imagination.

Conclusion

Action research is the helping tool to identify the problem and provide solution to that problem. For English learning, students need continuous practice in listening, reading, writing and speaking. Among these four skills, writing need more practice for permanent impact. Working with worksheets definitely will help the students to improve their handwriting, creativity and their writing ability. Through this action research, the investigator proved the above lines.

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