

Poor Proficiency of English Language among Tertiary Level Students in Bangladesh and Its Effect on Employability: An Investigation to Find Facts and Solutions

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Abstract : English is unanimously recognized as the standard second language in the world, and no one can deny this fact. Many people believe that possessing English proficiency skills is the key to communicating effectively globally, especially for developing countries, which can bring further success to itself on many fronts, as well as to other countries, by ensuring its people worldwide access to education, business, and technology. Bangladesh is a developing country of about 160 million people. A notable number of students in Bangladesh are currently pursuing higher education, especially at the tertiary or collegiate level, in more than 150 public and private universities. English is the dominant linguistic medium through which college instruction and lectures are given to students in Bangladesh. However, many of our students who have only completed their primary and secondary levels of education in the Bangla medium or language are generally in an awkward position to suddenly take and complete many unfamiliar requirements by the time they enter the university as freshmen. As students, they struggle to complete at least 18 courses to acquire proficiency in English. After obtaining a tertiary education certificate, the students could then have the opportunity to acquire a sustainable position in the job market industry; however, many of them do fail, unfortunately, because of poor English proficiency skills. Our study focuses on students in both public and private universities (N=150) as well as education experts (N=30) in Bangladesh. We had prepared two sets of questionnaires that were based upon a literature review on this subject, as we had also collected data and identified the reasons, and arrived at probable solutions to overcoming these problems. After statistical analysis, the study suggested certain remedial measures that could be taken in order to increase student's proficiency in English as well as to ensure their employability potential.

Keywords : tertiary education, English language proficiency, employability, unemployment problems

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