



ISSN Print: 2394-7500
ISSN Online: 2394-5869
Impact Factor: 5.2
IJAR 2019; 5(2): 203-206
www.allresearchjournal.com
Received: 28-12-2018
Accepted: 30-01-2019

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Assessment of study skills among ix class students at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India

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Abstract

Background: To inspire students to dream big, facilitate love for learning, to have 100% of them ready for college and their career, in judging students' over all potential and attainment levels study skills are considered to be important. Data from National High School Center suggests that ninth grade is the most important year in high school for determining the future success of the student. Present study is an attempt to assess study skills among IX class students studying in Tirupati.

Objectives: The study was planned to assess the study skills among IX class students and to determine the association of study skills with their demographic variables in a view to educate the students about various study skill/ strategies.

Material and methods: In the present study descriptive research design was used and it was planned to conduct in S.V. High School, Tirupati, AP, India. Samples were IX class students studying in S.V. High School, Tirupati. Convenient sampling technique was used to choose the sample. Data were collected from 80 students by administering structured study skills inventory.

Result: The findings of the study revealed that among 80 IX class students 82.5% (66 students) of them were possessing average study skills and 17.5% (14 students) of them were possessing below average study skills, no one reported as having above average study skills, which clearly shows that there were nearly 20% of the students who still lack the study skills which may lead to poor academic performance, which need to be taken care.

Keywords: Students, study skills

1. Introduction

Study skills are an array of skills which tackle the process of organizing and taking in new information, retaining information and dealing with assessments which are applied to learning. They are generally considered essential for acquiring good grades and useful for learning throughout once life [1]. Getting organized to study, finding time to study, styles of writing, effective reading, mnemonics, time management, note taking, memorizing, concentration and test preparation skills are some of the study skills required for high school students [2].

The transition to middle school is an educational milestone, marking significant and sometimes unspoken changes in expectations [2]. Knowledge and appropriate usage of study skills is an important factor in academic success. Students who are exposed to a variety of study strategies and who are able to properly select and apply them to their academic tasks are typically higher achievers than those students who use maladaptive strategies.[3] Study skills are considered to be important in judging students over all potential and attainment levels [4]. Now a days high school students are under high stress because of high expectations by the management, teachers and parents.

Simmons stated that many college students are not confident in their ability to study effectively [5]. Developing study skills at the middle school level could lead to higher levels of achievement. Students of this age need a substantial amount of instruction and monitoring in their academic tasks [2]. Development of study skills plays a significant role in students' academic performance in the learning process.

Present study is an attempt to assess study skills among IX class students at Tirupati. IX class students are under stress because of excessive work and lack of time management, high expectations, textbook reading, note taking, memorizing, concentration and test preparation etc. Excessive stress and test anxiety can be harmful to a students' academic performance

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and students whose stress levels are very high may often become depressed in turn lead to mental health problems, thus promotion of appropriate study skills among the IX class students is important to assist them to cope with the demand of curriculum. Effectiveness of each study skill benefits the middle school children and lead to higher academic performance.

2. Objectives

- To assess the level of study skills among IX class students.
- To assess the level of usage of various components of study skills
- To determine the association of study skills among IX class students with their demographic variables.

3. Methodology

Descriptive research design was used which is usually carried out for the purpose of providing an accurate portrayal of a group of subjects with specific characteristics.^[6] The study was planned to conduct in S.V. High school, Tirupati, AP, India. Population was IX class students studying in S.V. High school, Tirupati. Convenient sampling technique which is a type of non-probability

sampling was used to choose the sample ^[7].

4. Data collection process: Data were collected from 80 IX class students, each subject in the sample were given demographic data sheet and study skills inventory which contains items regarding text book reading, note taking, memory, test preparation, concentration and time management skills. Score <40% indicates below average skills, 40-60% is average, >60% is above average skills.

4.1. Procedure for data collection: Prior permission was taken from the Principal, S.V. High school, Tirupati to conduct study on 7th April, 2018. Data was collected from the students who are available and willing to participate. A brief introduction and purpose of the study was explained, confidentially was assured to obtain free and frank answers.

4.2. Reliability of tool: To establish reliability of the tool test retest method was used and the score obtained was $r=0.80$ which shows high correlation of scores. Hence the tool was considered reliable for data collection.

5. Data analysis and interpretation

5.1. Percentage distribution of demographic variables n=80

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables

Demographic Variables		Frequency	Percentage
Age	13 yrs	7	8.8%
	14 yrs	73	91.2%
Gender	Male	35	43.8%
	Female	45	56.3%
Religion	Hindu	72	90%
	Muslim	4	5%
	Christian	4	5%
Geographic area of living	Urban	67	83.8%
	Rural	10	12.5%
	Semi urban	3	3.8%
Income	>5,000/-	39	48.8%
	>10,000/-	25	31.3%
	< 20,000/-	16	20%
Fathers' education	Illiterate	11	13.8%
	High school	34	42.5%
	Primary school	21	26.3%
	Graduation & above	14	17.5%
Mothers' education	High school	37	46.3%
	Illiterate	18	22.5%
	Primary school	16	20%
	Graduate & Above	9	11.3%
Medium of instruction	Telugu	21	26.3%
	English	59	73.8%
Fathers' occupation	Labour	33	13.8%
	Private employee	18	22.5%
	Un employee	10	12.5%
	Business	16	20.0%
	Government Employee	3	3.8%
Mothers' occupation	Labour	11	13.8%
	Government employee	2	2.5%
	Private employee	5	6.3%
	Home maker	57	71.3%
	Business	5	6.3%
Present residence	Hostel	7	8.8%
	With parents	71	88.8%
	With relatives	2	2.5%

The above table depicts that majority i.e. 73 (91.2) students were 14 yrs old and 7 (8.8%) students were 13yrs old; 72 (90%) students belongs to Hindu religion, 4 (5%) students belong to Muslim and Christianity equally; majority that is 67(83.3%) were living in urban areas, 10 (12.5%) students living in rural areas and 3 (3.8%) students living in semi urban areas; regarding income majority i.e. 39 (48.8%) student’s family income is >5,000/-, 25 (31.3%) is earning >10,000/- and 16 (20%) student’s family income is < 20,000/-; education of father and mother shows 11 (13.8%)student’s fathers were illiterates and 18 (22.5%) student’s mothers were illiterates, rest all fathers and

mothers were literates; majority i.e. 59 (73.8%) students were from English medium and rest 21 (26.3%) students were from Telugu medium; regarding father’s occupation 10 (12.5%) student’s fathers were un employs, rest all are somehow doing jobs; with regard to mothers occupation majority i.e. 57 (71.3%) mothers were home makers, rest all doing jobs of different kind; with regard to present residence majority i.e. 71 (88.8%) students were staying with parents, 7 (8.8%) students were living in hostels and 2 (2.5%) students were living with relatives.

5.2. Percentage distribution of level of study skills

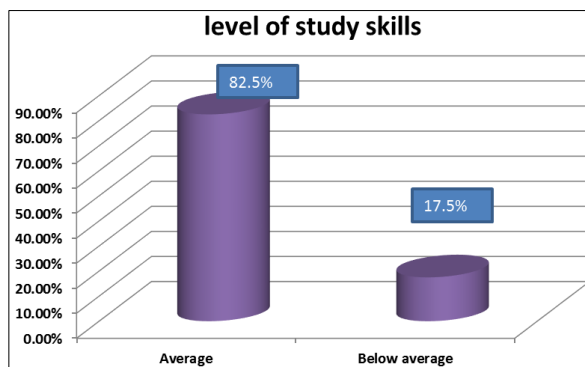


Fig 1: level of study skills among IX class students

The above figure depicts that among 80 study sample 82.5% (66 students) of them were possessing average study skills and 17.5% (14 students) of them were possessing below average study skills; no one reported as having above

average study skills.

5.3. Association of study skills with demographic variables

Table 2: Association of study skills with Gender of the sample

S. No	Demographic variables	Frequency	Chi square	df	'p' value
1.	Gender				
	Female	45	7.34	2	0.025
	Male	35			

The above table depicts that there is a significant association between gender of the sample and level of study skills at 95

% of confidence level where 'p' is 0.025 which is below 0.05.

Table 3: Association of study skills with medium of instruction

S. No	Demographic variables	Frequency	't' value	df	'p' value
1.	Medium of Instruction				
	Telugu medium	40	-2.199	39	0.034
	English Medium	40			

The above table depicts that there is a significant association between medium of instruction and level of study skills at 95 % of confidence level where 'p' is 0.034 which is below 0.05.

5.4. Level of components of study skills among study sample

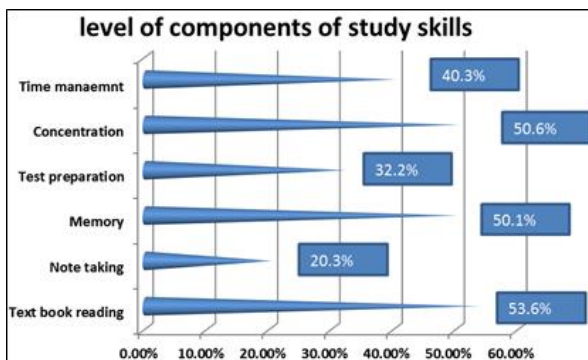


Fig 2: Level of percentage distribution of components of study skills

The above figure depicts that among 80 IX class students concentration, memory and text book reading were the good usage skills among all other skills at a percentage of 50.6%, 50.1% and 53.6% respectively; they were poor in using skills like test preparation, time management and note taking at a percentage of 32.2%, 40.3% and 20.3% respectively which clearly shows that the IX class students are good at concentration, memory and text book reading skills and poor at test preparation, time management and note taking skills.

6. Result & Discussion

The result of the present study revealed that among 80 study sample 82.5% (66 students) were possessing average study skills and 17.5% (14 students) were possessing below average study skills, no one reported as having above average study skills. It was also found a significant association between Genders, Medium of instruction of the study sample with study skill development. It even found that students were good at concentration, memory and text book reading skills and poor at test preparation, time management and note taking skills which is supported by findings of a study done by Shaloon and Nahan (2008) stated that among 400 9th class students identified major defects in students study skills were planning and time management followed by concentration and note taking skills, there is a significant co-relation with education achievement.^[8]

It clearly shows there were nearly 20 % of the students who lack adequate study skills which need to correct at high school level itself.

7. Conclusion

High school age is a crucial stage where future education of the student is depended. The gained knowledge/skills in high school age will help them in achieving good academic grades and will be beneficial to improve their skills for higher education. Lack of study skills puts students at risk and they suffer at various stages of their learning and education. Such students are often end up in to the category of underachievers. As the findings of the study shows there are more than 20 % of the students who lack adequate study skills, the study recommends;

- Conducting awareness campaigns on study skills at middle school level.
- Further research to identify specific study skills to be taught at middle school level.
- Education sessions for parents and teachers on study skill strategies which in turn benefit the student.

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