



A study of Sanskrit Language Proficiency of Students of Sanskrit Language

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Introduction

Sanskrit is known as the language of the gods. This language has existed in India since time immemorial. Most of the other languages of India are believed to have been derived from Sanskrit. In that sense, Sanskrit is the mother tongue of all the languages of India. Most of the ancient literature of India is written in Sanskrit language only. Sanskrit is the language of the mantras of Hinduism and Buddhism. Sanskrit is the only official language of the state of Uttarakhand. Even before the Iron Age, the ancient Vedic Sanskrit of Sanskrit was first used in India. Then the classical Sanskrit language began to be used. Many epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata have been written in classical Sanskrit language. In present research, the researcher studied the Sanskrit Language Proficiency of Students of Sanskrit faculty.

Keywords: Language Proficiency, Sanskrit language

1. Introduction

Sanskrit, the classical language of India, has long been renowned for its beauty, subtlety and complexity. It is the key to the civilisational treasures of Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism, and provides direct access to a vast repository of literary, scientific and philosophical wisdom.

In this present study, the researcher constructed a Sanskrit Proficiency Test for the students of Sanskrit Language from Arts College and scores obtained in this test will determine the Sanskrit language proficiency of the students of Sanskrit faculty from Arts College.

2. Definition of Keyword

2.1 Language Proficiency

According to Kennel and Swain (1980),

“The ability of conversation is language proficiency which is analysed as, (1) Grammar proficiency, (2) Social lingual proficiency and (3) Strategic proficiency.

According to H. H. Stern (1983),

“Language proficiency is, intuitive mastery of language forms, Proficiency in presenting linguistic, cognitive and effective meanings of social, cultural meanings.”

According to Cummins (1980),

“Conscious and clear mastery of language characteristics means language proficiency.”

3. Variables of the study

3.1 Independent Variables

A. Area of College

- Semi Urban
- Urban

B. Gender

- Male

- Female

3.2 Dependent Variables

Sanskrit language proficiency acquired by the student was dependent variable.

4. Objectives of the Study

1. To study the Sanskrit language proficiency of the students of Sanskrit from the Arts College
2. To study the Sanskrit Language Proficiency of the students of Sanskrit from the Arts College in the context of Urban & Semi Urban area.
3. To study the Sanskrit Language Proficiency of the students of Sanskrit from the Arts College in the context of gender.

5. Hypotheses of the Study

Ho₁ There is no significant difference between mean scores of Sanskrit Proficiency Test obtained by the students of Urban & Semi Urban area.

Ho₂ There is no significant difference between mean scores of Sanskrit Proficiency Test obtained by the Male and Female.

6. Research Method

The present study was a survey type study in which Sanskrit language proficiency of Sanskrit Subject students were studied by a test constructed by the researcher. Thus, survey research method was used in present study.

7. Sample of the Study

The researcher Purposefully Selected the both Colleges and among both Colleges; selected 200 students randomly studying in Sanskrit Subject in the year of 2018-19 from the Arts Colleges from Patan District. The sample was stratified in different strata according to independent variables. The final sample of this study was as below.

Table: 1 Sample of the Study

Area/Gender	Semi Urban	Urban	Total
Male	50	50	100
Female	50	50	100
Total	100	100	200

In present sample, 50 Male and 50 female students were selected from P. K. Kotaval Arts College, Patan and, 50 Male and 50 female students were selected from Semi Urban area of Arts College Palasar. Overall, 100 students were selected for sample.

8. Research Tool

The researcher constructed a Sanskrit Proficiency Test for the students of Sanskrit faculty from the Arts Colleges. This test was constructed with the help of few Sanskrit Subject Students and research experts. The test was having 30 marks of all kind of questions. A blue print was constructed before the test was prepared, so that, all kind of questions had been comprised in this test.

9. Procedure of Data Collection

The researcher visited the Colleges per the time being permitted by the principal of the College. The students were given the test along with a separate answer sheet. The researcher explains every detail regarding this test. The students were given 1 hour to complete this test. After the completion of test, the researcher collected the test and used the obtained data for further analysis.

10. Data Analysis

The researcher carefully checked all the answer sheets obtained from the students. The scores were classified and tabulated and used to analyse the hypotheses. To check the hypotheses, the researcher performed t-test. The results obtained by the t-test are mentioned as below.

Ho₁ There is no significant difference between mean scores of Sanskrit Proficiency Test obtained by the students of Urban & Semi Urban area.

Table: 2 Significance between mean scores of students of Semi Urban and Urban area

	N	M	SD	SED	t-value	Significance
Urban	100	15.46	3.29	0.92	6.61	0.01
Semi Urban	100	21.53	3.41			

df	0.05	0.01
198	1.97	2.60

Above table shows the results of t-test between mean scores of students. The calculated t-value is 6.61 while table t-values for df=198 are 1.97 and 2.60 at 0.05 and 0.01 levels respectively. Here, calculated t-value is more than table t-values at both levels. Thus, it is revealed that the hypothesis is rejected and there is significant difference between mean scores of Sanskrit Proficiency.

Moreover, mean score of students of Urban area is more than that of Semi Urban area. Therefore, it is concluded that the students of Urban area have more proficiency in Sanskrit language than the students of Semi Urban area.

Ho₂ There is no significant difference between mean scores of Sanskrit Proficiency Test obtained by the Male and Female.

Table: 3 Significance between mean scores of Male and Female

Gender	N	M	SD	SED	t	Significance
Male	100	18.23	3.53	0.82	0.44	NS
Female	100	17.87	3.11			

df	0.05	0.01
198	1.97	2.60

Above table shows the results of t-test between mean scores of Male and Female of Sanskrit Subject from the Arts College. The calculated t-value is 0.44 while table t-values for df=198 are 1.97 and 2.60 at 0.05 and 0.01 levels respectively. Here, calculated t-value is less than table t-values at both levels. Thus, it is revealed that the hypothesis is not rejected and there is no significant difference between mean scores of Sanskrit Proficiency Test obtained by male and Female students.

Therefore, it is concluded that the Male and Female has equal proficiency in Sanskrit language.

11. Findings

1. The students of Urban area have found more proficiency in Sanskrit language than the students of Semi Urban area.
2. The Male and Female students found have equal proficiency in Sanskrit language.

12. Conclusion

Sanskrit is very ancient Indian language. It is very important for culture as our all-ancient books are written in Sanskrit language. The main objective of this research was to study the Sanskrit language proficiency of the students of Sanskrit Subject from the Arts College. The researcher constructed a

Sanskrit Proficiency Test for the students of Sanskrit Subject from the Arts College. The researcher selected a sample of 200 students and test was given to them. After study, it was revealed that area of the College significantly affected on the proficiency of Sanskrit language while gender found unaffected on it.

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