

ABSTRACT

Name of the Scholar: Sunita Chawla
Name of the Supervisor: Dr. Sara Begam
Name of the Co-Supervisor: Prof. S.R. Mittal
Department: Department of Teachers Training & Non Formal Education, Institutes of Advanced Studies in Education, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi-25.
Programme: Ph.D. (Education)
Title of the Thesis: ***A Study of Development and Effectiveness of a Computer -Based Program for Developing English Language Skills among Visually Impaired***

The present study attempted to look into certain factors, which believed to have significant impact of the use of computer in developing English language skills among visually impaired students. The research is conducted with the objectives: (1) To identify and understand the English Language learning problems of the visually impaired. (2) To develop a multimedia strategy for teaching English language to the visually impaired. a) to supply various language concepts having transformative and lucid sequence to strengthen the skills of English Language; b) to introduce a greater number of exercise items demanding an understanding of linguistic behaviour of words, phrases & sentences; c) to encourage the visually impaired for independent thinking, free and effective expressions of ideas and opinions in written and oral presentations; d) to bring improvement in reception aspect with the help of easy to understand audio- visual material; e) to make visually impaired students find English Language learning more interesting with the range of entertaining, relevant and meaningful inputs. (3) To develop a new approach so that it can be useful for teachers and students. The concept of visually impaired, computer based program, language and language skills are operationally defined for the present experimental study based on a randomized groups Pretest- posttest design. For the purpose, the children included were the totally blind without any auditory disability of junior high classes VIth and VIIth from four special and integrated schools for visually impaired had been selected as the population. A sample of 90 students further assigned to experimental and control conditions in groups of 45 students each. A preliminary data blank was prepared in order to obtain the basic information and ascertain the problems faced by the visually impaired students in learning English language and to know about their knowledge and accessibility to computer. Then after obtaining the entire information and discussing with the experts a computer- based program was developed for the experimental group to learn the English language skills and to evaluate the effectiveness of the computer-based program from the students who experienced the program in the experiment, an English language test based on the curriculum of VIth & VIIth classes was prepared and standardized. T-test is used to judge the statistical significance of the mean scores in intra-group comparison of pre-test and post test achievement scores in English language. Though the statistical analysis indicated that both the experimental and control group made substantial improvement. However, gains in marks scored in all the five items each in Pretest and Post

test by experimental group were noticeably more than those made by the control group. The results showed that the difference between means of total marks scored by the experimental group and control group was 30.86 and then 't' calculated value 21.79 was far greater than 2.63 for df 88, therefore the difference between means was highly significant and which was in favour of the experimental group. Hence, from the analysis of data, the critical data observation and the statistical method we very clearly and precisely come to know that the learning by computer based English language program by visually impaired students was noticeably more effective in developing the English language skills and improve upon their performance as compared to traditional method.