

Teaching English to the Disadvantaged

J. Faustina, M.A., M.Phil.

Abstract

English, a language that came from nowhere, is set to conquer the world. Language is one of the most significant assets of human life. Language is considered a methodical arrangement of words that helps in the communication of our thoughts. Disadvantaged learners constitute the major portion of our society. The disadvantaged are socially, economically backward and they lack education. They are considered to be the low class by other class people. This paper deals with the Disadvantaged and the researcher have endeavored a phase as to who are Disadvantaged, why are they Disadvantaged and what are the problems faced by the Disadvantaged learners.

Keywords: Disadvantaged, backward, uneducated, problems, communication

Introduction

Language is dynamic. Disadvantaged learners are increasing day by day. Nowadays we have schools even in rural, tribal and slum areas. They are present in every area of the country. Learners who belong to this category lack in knowledge and skills. The situations and circumstances make them the Disadvantaged. They are cognizant of the education but they don't have enough grasp of that education.

Objective of the Study

The principal aim of the study is to deal with the disadvantaged learners who are slow in learning exclusively in English.

Hypotheses

The following are the hypotheses of the present study: (1) disadvantaged learners don't have access to the technology and (2) disadvantaged learners lack knowledge of the English language and they are unable to cope with English education

Research questions

- 1.) Who are the disadvantaged?
- 2.) Why are they disadvantaged?
- 3.) Why is English learning essential for the disadvantaged?
- 4.) What are the problems faced by the disadvantaged learners?
- 5.) What kind of education do they need?

Discussion

The term 'disadvantaged' refers to those who are poverty-stricken, living in pitiable conditions and/or destitute. They don't have enough facilities and access to gain a good knowledge of English. Disadvantaged learners are the needy people who are socially, economically and area-wise backward, compared to the rest of the population of the society. Poverty is the main reason for their pitiable situation. Due to low status they are denied all the facilities and privileges available to upper class people. In the disadvantaged category we can include the very poor, the downtrodden lower castes, scheduled castes (SC's) and scheduled tribes (STs) and all the socially, economically backward learners.

Disadvantaged learners are not even exposed to the other world, the educated world. They are the people who are considered inferior to the upper-class people and the educated people. Being disadvantaged is not a curse, but there are many reasons and circumstances that play important roles in making one disadvantaged. I consider poverty as the main reason for their backwardness. They don't have any opportunity to mingle with and to expose themselves to others because of their inferiority. Lack of intelligence due to lack of educated family background is also seen in them. They also lack food, shelter and comforts. This lack of knowledge results in their looking at all matters in a negative way as they may not even be able to have a good job. It results in unemployment. Location is also another important reason for the disadvantaged learners because they live mostly in rural or slum areas.

Their background judges them. They lack the scope in which privileged or upper-class people get through hurdles, by living in better locations. Disadvantaged learners lack in education and knowledge since they don't have enough exposure to it. Most importantly, disadvantaged learners do not have the proper exposure to the English language. This leads to many difficulties in communication, social life and economic situation.

English has become an essential factor to all people. In our country, English is necessary in any field or any kind of job and it has become almost obligatory. Today technology has developed and so in other ways our knowledge of the language has to be developed. Particularly in this aspect privileged learners are superior to disadvantaged learners. If their knowledge of English improves then automatically their standard of living will be enriched. By enhancing their language ability, they can also easily improve their social status.

English language is needed to survive in the present scenario. We couldn't imagine a world and the people in it without English. Disadvantaged learners lack in language skills. They face many problems in learning English. According to my view, Disadvantaged learners have anxiety and don't have self-assurance. Privileged people don't have any fear on English language as they have much exposure to it. Just by seeing the privileged learners, disadvantaged learners lose their confidence level and anxiety arises. The privileged learners don't have any difficulty in language. They are able to study well, while tackling their portions for their classes. Familiarity plays a vital role; while the disadvantaged are discouraged in learning subjects in

English, the privileged learners have no such problems, since they have had many exposures to the English language.

Teaching methods have to be changed to develop the language skills for the disadvantaged learners. Disadvantaged learners must be stimulated by the teacher. They can be taught in many ways like making them to converse, group work, letting them play games, showing them some pictures or some videos by which learners' responsiveness will be effortlessly multiplied and the learners will be fascinated by these teaching methods. Teachers can teach in their native language first, so that they feel happy and much more comfortable and then English can be introduced to them step by step. This attempt will surely help the disadvantaged to learn English.

Teachers must motivate the disadvantaged learners to learn the language. The most needed thing is positivity. Learners have to be handled by the teachers in a positive way and the disadvantaged should feel easy and happy to learn English. The other main thing is confidence. Anything can be achieved through confidence. It's the duty of teachers to encourage their learners. If disadvantaged learners are encouraged in their studies, they can easily achieve many things in their lives and their self-worth will be increased. They must be taught in a simple way and should not be discouraged by the teachers. Teachers should give equal importance to privileged and disadvantaged learners. Positive attitude should be developed among the disadvantaged learners.

Conclusion

Disadvantaged learners must be treated well by the society, surroundings and mainly by the teachers. Many disadvantaged learners have the capability, but situations and lack of facilities make them feel like inferior persons in society. The best challenge to our country is to develop the disadvantaged learners and to improve their situations so that the disadvantaged learners can be easily exposed to the outside world in which they can gain many experiences especially in learning language. Learners have to put in their efforts to develop their learning skills. In this present scenario, the role of a student is as equal as teacher in developing their language. On the whole, the motivation and guidance of the teacher towards the disadvantaged learners will help them prosper in their lives.

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J. Faustina, M.A., M.Phil.
Assistant Professor of English
Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College
Sivakasi
Tamilnadu
India
faustina.jawahar@gmail.com

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