

English Language Acquisition among School Children of Kashmir

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Abstract—English language is adulated in Kashmir for being a language that spells growth and upward social mobility. Kashmiris' are awe struck by the immense power the language wields as a global language. The high level of communicative potential English has instils a burning desire among Kashmiris to master the language. The forces of globalization have gripped Kashmir and knowledge of the language is seen to be imperative if one has to keep abreast of development and economic progress. Modern world is synonymous with information technology and since eighty percent of the World's electronically stored information is in English it gives all the more reason to the average Kashmiri to learn it. So, English becomes a pre requisite for getting benefitted from the technological strides that the twenty first century has made.

Since ninety percent of Kashmiris' learn English in the formal setting of school, this study was undertaken in the schools of Srinagar, the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir. The aim of the study was to see the motive behind the learning of English among school children of Srinagar and to identify those socio-psychological variables that positively or negatively impacted the acquisition of English. A sample of seventy three was randomly drawn from amongst class nine students studying in three different schools of Srinagar city. Data collected with the help of a self- designed questionnaire was then subjected to statistical analysis to arrive at a holistic understanding of the phenomenon.