

A Study of English Verbal Ability of 14-16 Year Old Students of Gujarat State

Dr. Ashokkumar B. Makwana

I/C Principal, Late M. C. Parmar BED College Khatamba Vadodara

Affiliated Shri Govind Guru University Godhra.

Email - ashok_sir1980@yahoo.com

***Abstract:** Aptitude tests have been in existing from the decade of 1940s with the title of the General Aptitude Test Battery. This was an initiative of the United States Employment Service which for the following decades, have helped students determine their career aptitude. It has been documented that it leads people to their respective choice of careers with an up sloping growth and with so much feelings of professional fulfillment. Presently, the career aptitude tests have evolved to include not only the tests of skills and abilities but also the tests of personality class or type. Aptitude is not synonymous to one's intelligence or mental abilities. It should not be confused with other terms such as intelligence quotient or intelligence level that dictate mental classifications such as the genius, child prodigy, mentally delayed, and mentally retarded, to name a few. Aptitude simply means and implies an individual's good fit and suitability for a certain skill or task. Now that it has been settled that career aptitude tests can be administered to both high school undergraduates and graduates, there emerged several discussions regarding the benefits taking the career aptitude tests may render to students who are in their junior and senior high school years, versus when it is taken at a later age. Early adolescence and late adolescence stage is filled with a lot of developmental tasks and adjustments. Chances of peer pressure, influences of advertisements as well as of those who are within their social circle may create more confusion to the many decisions they have to make, including career related decisions. Although this conclusive theory does not apply to all, this implies that increasing their awareness will somehow provide them an idea of a path that they may take, or a direction in their future careers, and decrease the chances of career mismatches by strengthening their viewpoint on their capabilities and matched career options. A self constructed test was used to test the English Verbal Ability of the school students of Gujarat state from the age of 11 years to 13 years. The data collected so were analyzed using critical ratio to test the significance of difference of area and sex on the students.*

Key Words: English Verbal, Aptitude, junior and senior high school,

1. INTRODUCTION:

The current generation is witnessing an unprecedented explosion of knowledge. Today, we live in a world where because of change in knowledge, shifting demographics, technological changes and economical globalization, jobs and needs are created and dissolved simultaneously. Due to explosion of knowledge for certain professionals their present knowledge and skills may become out of date in a very quick time. Thus, education alone is not enough for people to prepare them self to make a stand in this changing world. Today's parents realize that they have to prepare their child for a kind of world, where change is product of every moment. Everyone needs to be able to compete and survive in the 21st century's work environment. Awareness of this 'need for survival' is named as carrier literacy. For any job, it is required to get a special qualification which is mandatory for the job. To get this qualification students go to education institutes. Due to population explosion today there are more candidates for any job than the vacancies. So there becomes very fierce competition, which leads to undue stress for children and his parents. So it becomes necessary to know one strong and weak point which will help in the carrier progression. The definition of aptitude, according to the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, is "an inclination... tendency... natural ability... general suitability". Here this suitability can be worked out by employing the career aptitude test on a desired group of people to find out the desired people. So, now it is important to know about self. This awareness helps student to identify their talent. But this is not a simple process for talented students. There are many ways to know about self like; ability tests, achievement tests, various competitions, continuous assessment, interpretation etc. physiological parameters. These tests can be conducted at the higher secondary level in school because this is a stage where a student has to make a choice about their career. Therefore researcher decided to conduct a study in the field of the English Verbal Ability because English language is a much sought after subject these days.

2. OBJECTIVES :

- (1) To construct and standardized the English Verbal Ability test for school students.
- (2) To study the comparative effect of area on English Verbal Ability of school students.
- (3) To study the comparative effect of gender on English Verbal Ability of school students.
- (4) To study the comparative effect of age on English Verbal Ability of school students.
- (5) To establish norms on English Verbal ability test for school students.

3. OPERATIONAL DEFINITION :

English Verbal Ability:

The scores obtained by school students on the self constructed English Verbal Ability test were considered as the English Verbal ability of the school students.

3.1 VARIABLES

Dependent Variables: English Verbal Ability Test Score

Independent variables: Area, sex and age group were taken as independent variables. *Abbreviations:* EVAT= English Verbal Ability Test

3.2 DELIMITATION

The study was delimited to students of Gujarat state aged between 14 to 16 years old only.

4. METHOD THE STUDY:

Survey method of the research was used in the present study.

4.1 Population

The students of age group from 14 to 16 years old school students studying in geographical area of Gujarat state with medium of instructions English only formed the population for the present study.

4.2 Sample

In the present research all the Gujarat state was divided in the five parts. The Stratified Random Cluster sampling was used for the sample selection. From the selected school classes were selected randomly and all present students of selected class were included in samples for practical convenience. Finally 2204 samples were collected for the data analysis.

4.3 Tool

A self-constructed English Verbal Ability test was used to study the English verbal ability test in the Gujarat state. After construction of the first draft, it was reviewed by the experts and finalized after piloting on 250 students. Final test contained 20 items on the English Verbal ability.

4.4 Data Collection

Data collection was done with the self constructed tool from 2204 students. The whole Gujarat state was divided in the five zones for the purpose for the data collection.

4.5 Method of Analysis:

This was included following methods of analysis:

- Mean: Mean value was calculated for the distribution of Reaction scores, achievement scores and retention scores.
- Standard Deviation: It was calculated to study the variation in the scores.
- t-test: Inferential Statistical techniques such as t-test was employed for testing significance of the difference as stream and area of the sample.

4.6 Data Analysis And Interpretation :

- 15 years old urban area students have the higher English Verbal Ability than rural area students.
- 15 years old girl students have the higher English Verbal Ability than boy students.
- 15 years old urban area girl students have the higher English Verbal Ability than urban area boy students.
- 15 years old urban area boy students have the higher English Verbal Ability than rural area boy students.
- 15 years old urban area girl students have the higher English Verbal Ability than rural area girl students.
- 16 years old girl students have the higher English Verbal Ability than boy students.
- 16 years old urban area girl students have the higher English Verbal Ability than urban area boy students.
- 16 years old rural area girl students have the higher English Verbal Ability than rural area boy students.
- 16 years old urban area boy students have the higher English Verbal Ability than rural area boy students.

5. EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATION :

In English Verbal ability test, mean scores of urban area school students were found higher than rural area school students, means that English Verbal ability of urban area school students were higher in comparison to rural area. This result shows that teachers have to organize tutorial and guidance programme during academic sessions, which can enhance the abilities of rural area students and helps them to increase their English Verbal ability. There is a need to put more emphasis on the learning of English in the rural area students, so that the gap between urban and rural can be bridged. In English Verbal ability test, mean scores of girls school students were found to be higher than to boys students. This result shows that teacher have to make boys aware of need and role of language aptitude in educational and occupational fields. Teachers should also help the girls who are excellent in the verbal ability to excel in the field of literature and other allied fields. Teachers should also take efforts on improving the verbal ability of boys and have remedial teaching. On other hand for girls students, teachers should make efforts to further their interest in English Verbal communication and writing to have them better command over English language.

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