

VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN A

CASE STUDY

Theme of the Case Study : Technology in Teaching-Learning Process

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1) SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

The school belongs to the coastal area of Alappuzha district in Kerala. It has students and teachers from fishermen family. It has classes from LKG to Std 4. As it is a rural area, the total 104 students come from the nearby places.

Vocabulary is important for a child's success because it improves communication and is directly related to school achievement. Children with a wider vocabulary are more confident and tends to do better academically. At early ages, the quantity of language used is important. It is recommended that caregivers like teachers must use different words, with greater variety to expand vocabulary skills. After KG section, vocabulary learnt should be more related to quality. During this stage, it is important to provide a child with narratives. Here a school must begin using more sophisticated language and provide examples so that the child can learn synonyms. The important thing is to stay one step ahead of children in their development. Modelling words and phrases that are slightly beyond the child's level will help develop a stronger vocabulary.

As an idea of innovation, the school introduced the AI tool Alexa for the first time in Alappuzha district, and Virtual Reality-enabled learning program for the first time in Kerala. Also, the school shared this new idea to nearby schools as well. It has been noted that this venture has led to much progress in the vocabulary of the children.

2) CASE EVALUATION

As a Headmistress I noticed the sub-par condition of my students who were unable to spell and write both English language and native language Malayalam in a proper way. Devoid of systematic teaching techniques lead them to a basic level of education.

a. Deficitary Teaching Techniques

Even though teachers are given much training sessions from the SSK(Samagra Shiksha Kerala scheme), they still remain safe in the pupa stage. They neither focus on problems nor potential. Their additional knowledge was below moderate due to lack of reading and references. It was extremely arduous for the head of the institution to bring an apparent transition in their deficitary teaching techniques.

b. Poor Educational Resources and Opportunities

Children with no good opportunities and resources lack behind in learning vocabulary. They face difficulties with reading and thinking critically, and eventually develop language impairment. It also leads to poor articulation.

The students were neither able to handle the keyboard/mouse nor know the ICT techniques till then. The ideas and names related to computer are unfamiliar to them.

c. Poor Reading Comprehension

Students with limited vocabulary face trouble reading comprehension passages, especially on standardised tests that use long passages with rich vocabulary.

Lack of reading habits:

Some reasons behind the lack of vocabulary include no practice and no reading. Not understanding the context while practising vocabulary was also a major problem. They haven't been exposed to a wide range of reading materials such as books, articles or diverse conversations so that they hadn't any opportunity to grow.

The quality and focus of our education can significantly impact vocabulary development. Reading helps them develop a rich vocabulary. Moreover, reading more leads to better comprehension. A lack of reading habits equates to poor vocabulary and this happened due to limited access of reading materials, the early education system and parental influence. Passive engagement with peers and the environment around affects the learning rates.

d. **Reduced Writing Skills**

As they have limited vocabulary, my students face trouble with formal writing tasks such as preparing diary notes, letter writing, expressing thoughts, narrate a story, preparing conversations, news reporting etc.

3) **PROPOSED SOLUTIONS AND IMPLEMENTATIONS**

a. **Teacher Empowerment**

Identification of main problem: What causes a lack of vocabulary?

Effective vocabulary development requires explicit instruction. A deficit mind forms when teachers focus on problems rather than potential.

Low exposure to language environments hinders language development, making it difficult to understand others' perspectives, emotions, thoughts and ideas, and engage in complex social interactions.

The cultural aspects of a particular area dictate how children develop their language skills and influence their cognitive functions.

Discussed the problem in SRG

How to increase your word knowledge? Talked about the common mistakes to avoid when improving their vocabulary and the strategies one can implement.

b. Provided Leadership Opportunities Both for Teachers and Children

Chances to participate in Programme anchoring, speeches on day celebrations, live news commentaries etc. were given as a motivation. TeacherTalk on every day celebrations and occasions.

c. Daily Assembly

News reading, thought for the day, word of the day, riddles, GK questions, folk songs, pledge, speeches, action songs and variety of patriotic songs were included to build their vocabulary. We provide daily warmup exercises during assembly for supercharging their day.

Key Benefits:

- Boosts energy.
- Improves focus.
- Promotes co-ordination.
- Encourages habit formation.
- Lifts mood – stress busting.
- Fosters team spirit.

d. Fostered A Positive School Culture

Participation in non-academic activities such as Science Fair, Arts Festivals, School Sports, Various club activities etc. Our little scientists have been dominating the Sub-District level science experiment competition for the past two years, bagging back-to-back first prizes. In Arts Fest, we stormed into an impressive fifth position among the fierce lineup of 54 schools. Now we are focusing on practising hard to be the best in sports

e. Flashcards For Everyone

We provided flashcards to children. It was really an effective way to improve their vocabulary. It engaged them in active learning through visual representation, aiding in memory recall.

f. Best Reader Award

Categorised reading with the four level cards (B,E,S,T) in Malayalam and English prepared by the teachers are supplied to them. And the completed masters were honoured with Best Reader Award.

g. Technique Of Reading Aloud:

Reading aloud lets children regularly hear new words in new contexts, which builds their vocabulary and helps them develop a stronger awareness of the communicative possibilities of language.





h. Exposure Through Microphone

Reading cards were given to each student the previous day to study reading it well, and they are called to read aloud it the next day through microphone. And the change was extremely superb.

i. Pretty-Beats FM Radio

The activity provides entertainment and shares information with listeners through broadcasts. They cultivate responsibility for creating engaging content, interacting with guest performer, perform as a guest etc. It also builds confidence, encourages creativity and develop language skills. And it definitely promotes future skills. Experience in media can spark interests in broadcasting and journalism

Celebrity interviews: Chat with achievers of the school, both students and alumni

Event coverage: Report on day celebrations and other school functions.

Benefits for listeners: Entertainment, inspiration, infohub.

j. IT-Based Vocabulary Learning

Words given for keyboard practice in laptops enriched their memory power and vocabulary. Their interest in finding out more and more words in word gaming apps made the teachers feel effortless in their teaching. Teachers too could improve themselves while dealing with these games.



E-Cube English language lab activities are provided for each class to help hearing correct English accent and pronunciation through audio recordings. It can assess their capability of their English understanding level as well.

English Fest: Skits and roleplays based on the theme included in E-Cube English language lab activities were displayed before the public with great enthusiasm.

Link: <https://youtu.be/TxZQGhWDoP4?si=wdhIVEFVjfxTPab9>

Interaction with a foreigner: Arranged English-speaking communicative sessions led by Mr. Peter B. Jones, a UK citizen and volunteer of Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL). These interactions had a positive effect in building the vocabulary and elevating the confidence of our children.



Link: <https://youtu.be/rylWFBF2V2A?si=yaxkT6Maua1QPXhS>

k. Special News Channel

Presenting news like a newsreader on every occasion at school, in our official YouTube Channel improved their confidence. Also, it led them to use formal

language in a proper way. The posts in Facebook and YouTube channels were shared to the public in order to boost them up.

Link:

YouTube News Channel:

<https://youtube.com/@sherinpeter881?si=3HCxE8GIMWFGmmeY>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/presentation34229?igsh=ZTlrNW11NTJjM2M4>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1A54DPoVTt/>

Common YouTube Channel: https://youtube.com/@presentation5880?si=wD-6_NrLzpMOWefA

1. Festoons of Words

Classrooms, verandas, treetops, schoolground and play areas were decorated with festoons of words so that they could have friendship with words. And it really worked out so fast that within three months a majority of students could spell those hundred and above words without any error. Special gifts were given to those winners as an encouragement. I found it as a blessing for our Precious Children who are the students with special care.







m. **Talking Flash Card Reader Game**

Words-learning toys help the children build more English vocabulary with little effort and great enthusiasm.

Offered specific feedback : Rectified the accents, pronunciations and spelling mistakes of students and teachers.

Why Alexa as the first step?

- For active listening.
- Eye contact rather than looking elsewhere.
- Speaking clearly and concisely.
- Follow correct pronunciation.
- Asking questions.
- Empathy and respect.
- Get in touch with varied phrases and language forms.
- Building confidence and speak out without fear and anxiety.







We chose Alexa, the Artificial Intelligence platform from Amazon, to overcome the present problem. We introduced it before the children in the form of a friend using a mannequin so that they could freely speak up and exchange their ideas in the foreign language, English.

The question-and-answer form is used to compile answers, that Alexa offers, in response to an utterance; while a random quote extends the interaction between Alexa and the user, based on the questions asked in the aforementioned form. It is an alternative to be used for students with special needs (CWSN).

THEME	DESCRIPTION	EVALUATION
Enjoyment	Had fun with Alexa	Listening to a speaking and singing mannequin brought them every enjoyment and surprise
Confidence	Could talk freely with Alexa	Conversation without any fear and anxiety brought them confidence
Information	Got useful for interesting information	Listened daily news updates and collected correct answers to G K questions
Skills	Improved language skills such as listening and speaking	Could improve their English accent and pronunciation. Could listen to good English , practice and speak them as well.
Interaction	Promoted meaningful interaction	Alexa allowed them to interact in English in a meaningful way and made them eligible in creating questions.
Vocabulary	Supported vocabulary acquisition	It let them in touch with a lot of words they didn't know.

o. VIRTUAL REALITY AND AUGMENTED REALITY TECHNOLOGY [AUGUST 2025]

We introduced this technology for the first time in public schools of Kerala. Implementation of this tool is the second step for the language and knowledge development.

Immersive Learning: VR transports kids to places like space, jungles, ancient world – makes learning experiential.

Spark curiosity: Interactive exploration fuels wonder and promote interest in learning.

Story-telling magic: Students become part of narratives and engage in interactive tales.

Subject-specific focus: VR aids subjects like science (ecosystem) and geography (visit planets).

Motivates differently-abled kids: Accessible experiences for diverse needs.

Vocabulary: Associate words and sentences with actions and objects in 3D space; and helps in correct pronunciation and grammar.



Link: https://youtu.be/ce_0VGn4gRs?si=rhCURv2clHDy-hDq3&sfnsn=wiwspmo

CONCLUSION

Vocabulary of the students were initially not enough to their standard.

Constant effort, practice and moral support offered both teacher and students have made a better change.

The strategies implemented by the leader helped them improve vocabulary, especially in English, to an extent. Motivation and appreciation given for both teachers and students uplifted the overall excellence of the school.

Innovative teaching techniques and implementation of AI tools, VR technology and other educational toys improved the vocabulary of students and learning curiosity. Our utmost goal is to provide better education that leads them to an international level.