**THE ENVIRONMENT FACILITATING EXCELLENT SPOKEN ENGLISH SKILLS**

**AMONG SELECT NARIKURAVAR**

A field study submitted to

**Government Arts and Science College, Arakkonam-631 051**

In partial fulfilment of the requirement for the Award of the Degree of

**MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH**

by

**POOVARASAN.K**

**(Register no. 35621P02009)**

Under the guidance of

**Ms. B. POOVILANGOTHAI, M.A., NET., SET.,**



PG Department of English

**GOVERNMENT ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE,**

**ARAKKONAM-631 051**

**JUNE 2022**

**FORM-A**

**TITLE OF FIELD STUDY :** The Environment Facilitating

Excellent Spoken English Skills

Among Select Narikuravar

**LANGUAGE** : English

**NAME OF THE CANDIDATE :** K.Poovarasan

**REG.NO :** 35621P02009

**AGE :** 21

**SEX :** Male

**DEPARTMENT :** PG English

**YEAR :** M.A.,I YEAR

**SEMESTER :** II

**COLLEGE ADDRESS :** Government Arts and Science

College, Arakkonam **RESEARCH SUPERVISOR :** Ms. B. Poovilangothai, M.A.,

NET., SET.,

**DECLARATION**

I, **POOVARASAN.K,** hereby declare that the field study entitled **THE ENVIRONMENT FACILITATING EXCELLENT SPOKEN ENGLISH SKILLS AMONG SELECT NARIKURAVAR**  is the result of my original and independent research work carried out under the guidance of **MS. B.POOVILANGOTHAI., M.A.,NET.,SET.,**Assistant Professor Government Arts and Science College, Arakkonam and this has not been submitted for the award of any degree, diploma, or fellowship or any other similar titles of any university or institution previously.

Place: Arakkonam **POOVARASAN.K**

Date:

**Certificate**

This is to certify that the field study entitled **The Environment Facilitating Excellent Spoken English Skills among Select Narikuravar** submitted by **K. POOVARAASAN** (Reg. No. 35621P02009) to Government Arts and Science college, Arakkonam-631051 in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the Degree of Master of Arts in English is a record of bona fide research work done by the candidate during the period 2021-2022 under the guidance of **Ms. B.POOVILANGOTHAI., M.A.,NET., SET**., Assistant Professor, PG Department of English, Government Arts and Science College, Arakkonam. The field study work has not formed the basis for the award of any degree, diploma, associate ship, fellowship or other similar title to any other candidate and it represents independent work on the part of the candidate.

**Ms. B. Poovilangothai, M.A., NET, SET.**, **Dr. P. Samuel, M.A., B.Ed., M.Phil., PH.D.,**

Assistant Professor Head, PG Department of English

PG Department of English, Government Arts and Science College,

Government Arts and Science college Arakkonam-631 051

Arakkonam – 631 051

Submitted for the Viva-voce Examination on -----------------------

Internal Examiner External Examiner

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **S. NO** | **CONTENT** | **PAGE NO** |
| 9.  10.  11.  12.  13.  14.  15. | Introduction  Aim of the study  Preface to the study  Place of study  Field study tools  Statistical collection  Need and Purpose of Study  Field Study Plan  Statistical Analysis  Findings  Study Results  Implementing The Solution  Conclusion  Appendix-I Questionnaire  Appendix-II Photographs | 1  3  3  4  7  7  7  8  9  10  13  16  17  18  21 |

**THE ENVIRONMENT FACILITATING EXCELLENT SPOKEN ENGLISH SKILLS**

**AMONG SELECT NARIKURAVAR**

**INTRODUCTION**

Culture is a defined as the way people live their life. It encompasses the way of speaking, dress code, and behavior of people. Culture is not merely traditional beliefs, customs and ritual it incorporates everything of a particular ethnic group, for instance their origin, social background, birth of baby and the language they speak. This field study attempts to study the factors that help the people of the Narikuravar community to speak in fluent English. The word Narikuravar is composed from Tamil word Nari and Kuravar. The word Nari refers to jackal and Kuravar means some category people. The two different words were blended to from the new word Narikuravar. The name narrates the former life style of Narikuravar people, because the people were hunting wild animals and birds in the forest. The government has prohibited hunting and also entering into the forest, so the indigenous tribes settled in the plains to pursue their live-hood.

There are two different sects the among Narikuravar people. The one group of people sacrifices buffalo and another group sacrifices goat. There are five different castes among the Narikuravars. They are, Mevada Selio, Dabi, Gujaratho, and Pavar. The Narikuravar people identity changes according to the place where they live. In Tamil Nadu state, they are referred to as Narikuravar in Andhra Pradesh they are called Akkipakki *–* one who sell safety pin and ornamental beads. In Karnataka they are referred to as Nakkalavaadu and Naadodikal. Their community status to differ according to the state they reside. In Tamil Nadu, they come under MBC category and in the other states – Andhraand Karnataka – theycome under ST category. In Tamil Nadu they are trying to get ST status.

The Narikuravar people speak is Indo Aryan language. It is considered as western Indian language so the people also called as vagris or vagrivalas. There is no written form for this language. Most of the Narikuravar people are well versed in Tamil language. There are language includes folk song and oral narration of people and are called by the name vagriboli. In earlier times the people had been hunting animals, birds in the using forest gun, but government banned the gun in the year1993-1994.Thepeople are the prohibited to enter even forest to live their life, so they decided to do alternative jobs like selling safety pin, Algae, Comb plastic items, apart from this,the people make packets and selling cardamom, clove anise, bar dry fruits like grapes, nuts and soon. This is a great barrier for the Narikuravar people. The people spend their time through playing cards, arranging beads algae, ruthrastam, playing dhayam (ladder).The youngsters spend their time in playing cricket, khabadi, seven stones, and gathering honey from tree, hunting birds, crows, stroke, crane, quill, partridge, manipuraa. The youngsters are attracted to dialogues of actors,and follow their way of dressing, riding the bikes. This shows how media had created a great impact among young generation people in Narikuravar community. It is mandatory to tell the settlements of people. Previously they lead their life in forest, and then become as nomads. They did not have any particular place for shelter show keep moving to different places where the people wish to go and settle. This reflects in the education and it is a great hindrance for the children in their studies. The child marriage is another problem in their community. Even theparents do not compel their children, because they do not have proper awareness in education. There are huge school dropouts in their community. Most of the children continue their studies till 8th Standard then they are not willing to go school. The reason behind is surroundings of the children. It is mandatory to give proper awareness about education to them and uplift livelihood of the people as a researcher, it is to teaching basic, English language to the Narikuravar community students and also to realize the importance of English language in the society.

**AIM OF THE STUDY**

To find out if English fluency without formal education is capable of getting a white-collar job.

**PREFACE TO THE STUDY**

In Youtube there were many videos feature Narikuravar individuals talking in English fluently it was introducing that Narikuravars who were one of the marginalized communities in Tamil Nadu were able to speak fluently in English. English education is coveted when Narikuravar or fluent in English it means that they have access to coveted English education. But statistic tells as that school dropout level is very high among the Narikuravars.

Also there is a general feeling of derision towards the Narikuravars among the public. Considering this situation, it is highly improbable that the Narikuravars acquired English knowledge through formal education. We could safely conclude that their English knowledge is acquired through informal means like acquaintance with native speakers, through social media etc,. English is considered one of the basic skills necessary to get a white collar job. Due to the lack of English knowledge, many people who have multiple degrees could not get a decent employment. Therefore, the researcher became curious about the poor life the *Narikuravar* people lead despite having good English. To this effect, a field study was undertaken by the researcher to find out if spoken English was useful to get a white scholar job.

Through YouTube the researcher identified a bunch of Narikuravar people poor fluent in English on for their research it it was found out that this people resided in a settlement near Mahabalipuram a place of historical importance, and a popular tourist destination.

**PLACE OF STUDY**

* M.G.R Nagar, Pooncheri village, Mahabalipuram.
* K.K Nagar Thanigaipolur, Arakkonam.

**SAMPLE**

Durai

* Tamil, English ,Hindi
* 58 years old
* Uneducated
* Schools are there but he didn’t like to go

Ashwini

* Tamil, English
* 20 years old
* She studied 8th standard.
* Her family had no income to need
* So I came to sell beads in 15 years old
* Her tribes customs is groom only give a gifts for marry a bride

Murali

* Tamil, English, Telugu, Malayalam
* 29 years old
* He studied 7th standard
* He did not go to school for some friends came to his life

Kavitha

* Tamil, English
* 21 years old
* She studied 5th standard
* Her parents did not allow to go to school

Vasanthi

* Tamil, English ,Telugu
* 22 years old
* She studied 5th only
* Government, HR, sec, school, Vadakadumpady

Sumathi

* Tamil, English, Telugu
* 25 years old
* She studied 12th standard
* She studied at her native place but in the co-incident they came to Mahabalipuram

Shiva

* Tamil, English
* 31 years old
* He educated at medical college at Chengalpattu
* His brother encourages him to study and he went to part time job

Arumugam

* Tamil, English
* 32 years old
* He is not went to school
* He is uneducated

Mageshwari

* Tamil, English
* 25 years old
* He studied at 4th standard in Thanigaiplour school
* After his father’s death he didn’t study

Jothika

* Tamil, English
* 25 years old
* He studied 9th standard in Thanigaipolur school
* She did not like to go to school to study, so I start to go to job.

**FIELD STUDY TOOLS**

* Questionnaire of statistical data for study.

**STATISTICAL COLLECTION**

* 10 members, 6 from Pooncheri village and 4 from Thanigaipolur, were selected to be interviewed.
* Two methods of study were used – interview and responses through questionnaire. While the interviews revealed their life in detail, questionnaire concentrated on the features that facilitated English language acquisition. The data thus collected were laid as pie charts to reveal.
* Known about their speaking knowledge and education knowledge
* Interviewing that people

**NEED AND PURPOSE OF STUDY**

* They are went school?
* How they learn and speak?
* Purpose of speaking

**FIELD STUDY PLAN**

Selection of site for study



Selecting the tool for study



Preparation of Questionnaire list for statistics collection



Statistical collection



Statistical analysis



Knowing the details of the problem form the results



Consulting and deciding on a solution



Solution implementation

**STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

The investigator discussed about the educational status of that people. It is mandatory to tell the settlements of people. Previously they lead their life in forest, and then become as nomands. They did not have any particular place for shelter. So keep moving to different places where the people wish to go and settle. This reflects in the education and it is a great hindrance for the children in their studies. The child marriage is another problem in their community. Even the parents do not compel their children to go school, it plays vital role in the life of young children, because they do not have proper awareness in education. There are huge school dropouts in their community. Most of the children continue their studies till 8th standard, then, they are not willing to go school. The reason behind is surroundings of the children. When his/ her friends are discontinuing their studies, at time he/ she is become dropouts in school. As a researcher, it is mandatory to give proper awareness about education to them and uplift livelihood of the people.

They have many problems in their families. So they did not go school to study. But they have many talents in inside of us. But the family problems are obstacles to that Narikuravar people. They all are pushed by some responsibilities it was an obstacle stone of these people life. They are able to learn more things it was easy to this people to educate more things. Some educated people do not speak English fluency but this type of community people doesn’t went to school but they speak English well.

**FINDINGS**

Table: 1

Medium through which English was learnt.

Table: 2

Knowledge of English.

Table: 3

Employment Opportunity through English.

Table:4

Requirement to acquire fluent English .

Table: 5

The duration taken to learn to speak English fluently

Table: 6

Does English guarantee a good job?

Table: 7

The usefulness of English

**STUDY RESULT**

Through this study, the researcher tried to learn how Narikuravars were able to speak English fluently. Many possible reasons were discussed and included in the questionnaire. The first way to learn to speak fluently is through formal education. Apart from this, their exposure to popular media including social media was also taken as pointers for the study. Through this study it was learnt that 80% of the respondents have used social media to speak English fluently while only 20% of the respondents had used formal education through schools to learn English. Among these people about 40% of the respondents knew only basic words in English while 30% were capable of writing and speaking in English and 30% could only speak English. Among the interviewed, people who can talk English fluently, 50% are searching for office jobs, 30% are selling fancy items and 20% are engaged in hunting and other traditional jobs. Through the study it was learnt that 70% of the respondents had used regular practice to acquire fluent English 20% had mastered English through willful conversation with foreigners and 10% through some strange circumstance. Of the interviewed 50% had learned to speak English by the time they finished primary school, 40% said they are still learning and only 10% said they mastered spoken English through higher education. Among these people about 40% thought that English knowledge would get them a good job while 60% think that good English is not going to get them good paying jobs. When asked about usefulness of English in life 80% said that they think that English is useful to get a job, 10 % thought that English useful to develop their skill-sand 10% said that English knowledge earned them respect.

* Total no. of sample: 10
* No. of ladies: 06
* No. of gents: 04
* No. of educated people: 08
* No. of uneducated people: 02

They all have a good spoken fluency.

Siva – the Physiotherapist:

The researcher contacted Mr. Siva who is a former resident of Pooncheri and who is now living Chengalpet. He is a physiotherapist by profession. Siva is the first person to earn a degree and that too a professional degree in Pooncheri. He worked as a physiotherapist in Saudi Arabia and Cameroon for 4 years. When the interviews were conducted, he was staying at Thanjavur. Therefore, the interviewer conducted a telephonic interview with him.

In the brief interview, the investigator is learns that Siva had lost his father as a child and was left in a home for orphaned children where he got formal education. It was the orphanage that helped him materially and morally to pursue higher education. After so much of financial hurdles, he finished his BPT (Bachelor of Physiotherapy) in the year (2013-2017). The next four years he worked in Saudi Arabia and came to settle down in chengalpet to take care of his family.

The story of Siva is an exception rather than a norm. In a jagged way it appears that Siva was able to achieve education and employment while being away from his family, it is rather unhealthy to force children to be away from their families to be educated. Through this study it was learnt that the Narikuravar people yearn so much for education and change of lifestyle, our administration and certain fixations never let them to achieve their dreams. For example, the Narivkuravar people are in need of a community certificate to pursue education. One of their long term demands was to change their community category into ST rather than MBC. Having a ST community certificate would let them use reservation for their improvement. Being in the MBC category, they are to face a stiff competition for education and employment.

Siva says that companies refuse to employ them for work. He further says, “No one in our community could join the police force because our height is less than an inch. If we were in the ST category we could have had the opportunity to join the police force.” A relative who took the group 3 exam missed the opportunity by less than 2 marks. If there was a reservation, he would have got a government job. Well, even if the government tries to get them to go to work, their community will not support the MBC. Being in the division has gone without a chance for that too. It is also said that there are only 2 graduates in the office working in this community. Economically backward people find themselves in government ST. They demand to be included in the section.

S.D. Although the bill was table in parliament in 2013 and 2016 to include the class, it failed due to lack of support. Although the government has been provided various assistance through, The Narikuravar Welfare Board, it is also important to consider whether it reaches out to all members of the community.

Aswini, a resident of Pooncheri village who hails from Narikuravar, said, study, is what makes us equal among all. Our children are not taught the lesson properly in school. They make our children sit alone and indifferent. Discrimination exists in schools. The importance we give to other students is not given to our children. Even many of the relatives did not read on a large scale. But our children are interested in studying, he said.

**IMPLEMENTING THE SOLUTION**

Every culture has its own limitation, rules and regulation, culture reflects in the field of education for particular community people. Narikuravars do not have any guidance to lead their life in a systematic way. The insecurity in job, no stable income makes them withdraw from schools without realizing the importance of education in the present world. But at present the interest for getting formal education is on the rise among the Narikuravars as it is seen in the interviews of Siva and Ashwini. Now that the people themselves want to get educated, they should be given every possible help to change their lifestyle.

* That Narikuravar must be moved to ST category to avail reservation. NGOs must come forward to work with community leaders to spread awareness about the importance of education
* Financial stability must to be established for the parents
* Children who wish to pursue education must be given adequate facilities like scholarship and accommodation.
* Awareness must be created among the general public to not discriminate Narikuravar children.
* Private enterprises must be encouraged not to discriminate Narikuravars in employment.
* Awareness about welfare schemes already introduced by the government must be created among the community.
* Self Help groups can be initiated among the community to overcome poverty.

**CONCLUSION**

Narikuravar people speak excellent English. They are not going to school because of their family issues and those people are willing to go to school, but their parents are not sent to school because of their poverty. The government should give them permission to maintain their business in the standard place. The investigator more excited to see their spoken fluency. They only studied 8th standard in the Tamil language, The government also gives more Scholarships, the lack of awareness, but they were using to respond to this for their studies. They have Spoken English, the investigator has seen that in that people but they will speak English more fluently. The investigator is also stuck to speak the English with fluency they have fantastic English fluency. Once they went to a college, people went into many fields in India. Sensitizing the Narikuravar community and bringing them into the mainstream will lead to their comprehensive development. It is the bounden duty of the government and the society to lend a helping hand to the Narikuravar community to uplift them from their deprived status and ease their social stigma. The government should also take steps to bring about empowerment among people to make their life better. The recent ST status announced by the government will prove to be the gateway for the Narikuravar community to join the mainstream of life.

**Appendix - i**

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

1. Name:
2. Date of birth:
3. Age:
4. Place of study:
5. Mobile No & e-mail
6. Gender
7. Male
8. Female
9. Transgender
10. Where is your home town?
11. Why did you migrate from your home town?
12. Languages known:
13. VaagriBooli language
14. Tamil
15. English
16. Occupation:
17. Making beads and shells
18. Hunting birds
19. Others
20. Monthly your income:
21. 7000 above
22. Under10000
23. Under12000
24. How did you learn English?
25. Mother tongue
26. Education through school
27. Through social media
28. Can you write English?
29. Yes
30. No
31. Basic words
32. Why can’t the government give you a lot of concessions to continue your students?
33. We did not demand
34. They give us
35. Not necessary
36. Education is almost free in Tamil Nadu why didn’t you go to school?
37. Due to poverty
38. Long distance
39. Not interested
40. I think you have the primary education why didn’t continue your education?
41. Not willing
42. Tranportation
43. Have responsibility
44. You speak good English why don’t you try for regular jobs?
45. Still searching
46. I do my clan job/work
47. No one gives a job to me
48. What do you think are the requirement to acquire excellent spoken English skills?
49. Regular practice
50. Willful conversation
51. circumstance
52. How long did you take to learn English?
53. Primary level
54. Until higher education
55. Till now
56. Is there anybody in good position amongst yours in spoken English?
57. Yes
58. No
59. Some people may be
60. How did English language help life?
61. Developing their skills
62. Useful your job
63. Respect

**Appendix**-**II**

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



