

Report of Short Term Program CICE Serampore February 2024 – May 2024

This year, the STP CICE program was offered from February 2024 to May 2024 at the Serampore Girl’s College Study Center. The course had 53 learners from the undergraduate level, 50 of whom had taken the term End Exam and had completed the course. 43 of them had submitted the learner’s feedback. 12 learners commented that the learning materials were difficult for them.

The course book used for teaching was *Strengthen Your English* by M. P. Bhaskaran and D. Horsburgh, Oxford University Press, 2013. This was a practice book on Modern English Usage, with each section dealing with a major area of English Grammar. 10 lessons from the book were selected for the course. Each lesson had a dialogue, usage notes and exercises, speech practice, reading passage, comprehension and composition. The classes were held in blended mode. The theory classes were held online twice a week. The theory exams were also conducted online.

During the entire course, nine of the learners had improved their listening skills; 24 had improved on speaking skills; 6 had improved on reading skills and 14 had improved on writing skills. While commenting on their grammar learning strategies, 35 responded that they had learnt from clear directions with step-by-step explanations and instructions to follow; while 6 had learnt by inferring grammar rules and usage on their own, the logical relationships, rules and structures. Thus the trend was more towards the inductive method of learning grammar. The advance learners however preferred the deductive method.

The course had exciting and attractive activities for both the novice and advanced learners. These were on imitation and practice of grammatical forms, presented in situational dialogues. When asked on learning experience of speaking skills, 27 responded that they had practiced orally in advance; 6 had planned and prepared on flexible expressions, and 7 had worked on strategies in case of communication breakdown. Planning and preparing on flexible expressions helped them to overcome anxiety over speaking. The learners developed confidence from practicing orally in advance and seeking help from peers.

As second language learners, the frequently used Listening skills strategy was self-monitoring. 20 learners had used the strategies of self-monitoring and were effective listeners. 10 learners had used selective attention. To avoid who lacked concentration, they had paid attention to language chunks (sentences and phrases) centering on individual words. 6 had inferred meaning while 4 elaborated on background knowledge to put in their answers on listening discourse. The learners had worked on getting on the clues after repetition, recognizing signals in listening and interpret the input provided. Many had relied on word-by-word approach for eliciting necessary information the input. The learners were evaluated on their performance in Assignment and Term End Examination. There were face-to-face practical exams on the Listening and Speaking skills. After assessment, it was revealed that 14 of the learners received A+, while 21 scored A, and 15 scored B+. In remarks, the learners commented that the training was satisfactory.

