



Ref No: SoH-KC/23-120

Date:29.5.2023

Report of the Short Term Program Certificate in Communicative English Dec 2022-April 2023

We are happy to place this report in your hands for your perusal. We have been conducting a Certificate course in Communicative English for the students of Serampore Girl's College for the last four years, and this year we have successfully completed the course and conducted examinations. This report provides the course details and the results of the examination conducted during April 2023.

The fourth cycle of the Short Term Programme CICE, was offered at Serampore Girl's College from 22nd December 2022 to 18th April 2023 with 44 learners of the English Department. The course used the syllabus prepared for the third cycle with a few modifications. These were addition of spoken idioms and online sessions on vocabulary and grammar. These modifications were incorporated based on the request from the faculty of the college as well as the feedback received from the students of the previous batches. The curriculum focused on teaching the spoken form of the language. Practice sessions were conducted on spoken idioms of English and their applications. The programme also had practical sessions on English pronunciation practice.

The learning materials were primarily based on two texts: a) *Creative English for Communication* by N Krishnaswamy & T Sriraman and b) *English Through Reading-2* by W W S Bhaskar & N S Prabhu. The chapters covered from the two texts for detailed study were; *On the Campus* from Text 1, and *Symptoms* by Jerome K Jerome, *Three Days to See* by Helen Keller and *Snap Short of a Dog* by James Thurber from Text 2. The program schedule had supplementary exercises on vocabulary, reading, grammar and writing skills.

The course was administered in a dual mode - F-to-F and online classes in a blended mode. Instructions on the use of learning materials were in form of interactions on learning apps, instruction within sessions, telephonic communications. In the feedback form, the learners mentioned that they had improved both their listening and speaking skills. A few learners responded that they were able to learn from the course materials on their own. 50 % of the learners had consulted dictionary during the learning. Other had relied on the inbuilt glossary of the text for word meaning and pronunciation.

The learners' preferred online sessions because in those sessions they had the opportunity to learn from peers, could discuss on the course contents comprehensibly, could participate in assignment discussion, meeting peers online was exciting, and audio visuals made the learning more effective. From the learner responses, it was found that the learning mostly happened in the practice sessions and while preparing for those sessions. Some responded that the materials were sometimes difficult to follow without the tutors.



A few did not attend all the sessions but performed well in the assignments. The learners agreed that self-learning on the topic can continue even after completing the course. They identified the strategies that they would adapt for self-learning and shared it with others during the concluding session. They had joined the course for enhancing their language skills and for securing a job after completing their studies. 31 out of the 44 course takers had completed all the assignments and attended the course end exam. There were no unsuccessful candidates. All learners were satisfied with their performances. 18 of them had A and A+ grades.

The learners of this cycle had performed better than the previous cycle. The reason for this was the revised curriculum and the syllabus offered in the course catering to their needs and demands. There is a scope of improving on the course, and the teaching-learning process technologically.

Based on the current feedback and after an elaborate discussion with the members of faculty from the college, the course will be further revised and administered in the following years. We thank the college authorities for giving us this opportunity to be of some help to them and we sincerely hope the relationship established will be sustained for a long time to come. We also take this opportunity to thank the students for their participation on the course and offering valuable suggestions. Finally, we are indebted to the colleagues who taught on the course and the University authorities for making this venture a possibility.

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