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## A Present Situation Analysis (PSA) Focusing the Difficulties in Writing English at the Technological Education System

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**Abstract** - Writing plays a vital role in the use of the English language owing to the increasing globalisation. However, English as a Second Language (ESL) user is not comfortable enough in writing English. As a component of Needs Analysis (NA) to address the above situation, this PSA was conducted for investigating the writing difficulties of freshers at the Advanced Technological Institute – Dehiwala representing the tertiary education system. In methodology, two research questions were derived based on the students' hypothesis of insufficient writing skills; 1. What are the perceptions of lecturers on students' poor writings? 2. What are the influencing factors on that? For this study, based on the purposive sampling three English lecturers from the institute were interviewed. Secondly, a random sample of thirty fresh students was selected for a questionnaire to understand their background and a self-reflection essay to evaluate their writing in online mode. Eventually, the mixed method is incorporated by considering thematic analysis on qualitative data and descriptive analysing on quantitative data. In the findings, lecturers emphasised producing own write up is utterly important over present and practice in the teaching methodology, nevertheless, group activities were recommended to obtain mutual benefits via multiple intelligence. Despite students barely managed with given essay to convey the message, there were common mistakes, and complex or complex-compound sentences were hardly found with minor mistakes. However, responses for the questionnaire, the majority of the students have been influenced by their social background, and their grades in the English module were not sufficient in their A/L and O/L examinations. In conclusion, PSA suggests addressing the variance of English knowledge of the students throughout the NA and to consider the possibility of conducting a pre-test to group the students based on their individual competence for an effective intensive English programme.

**Keywords:** English as a Second Language, Needs Analysis, Present Situation Analysis