

The Need Analysis on the Course Manual Requirements of the Science Faculty Students

A Nirogith and J Subajana

Vavuniya Campus of the University of Jaffna

<ajudenirogith@gmail.com>

Abstract - Needs analysis is one of the crucial components used in effective teaching. Need analysis assists students to experience and reflect on their learning. Teachers must use need analysis to identify the students' needs to gain authority and command in their learning. Also, it gives learners a sense of control over their course. Textbooks, course manuals, and material play a fundamental role in teaching English effectively, learning it properly, and motivating the learners to produce a better outcome, changing their attitudes towards learning English. The problem statement is that poorly chosen and designed materials affect the learning and make less interest in learners' attitudes. This study aims to investigate the poor performance of the less interested and 1st year ESP Bio Science learners at the Faculty of Applied Science of Vavuniya Campus in using the course manual currently used by them and to identify its weakness and the learners' real needs in ESP learning and design an appropriate course manual accordingly. The sample of the study was forty students from the FAS. The researcher applied a descriptive convenient sampling method. A questionnaire was administered among the forty students based on using the particular course manual. It was designed based on the Likert Scale, considering the six main themes: background, importance and interest, feedback to course content, language priorities, and language skills. Under the themes, many sub-questions were given. The data were analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively. A focus group interview was conducted among the students to derive the qualitative data. The results demonstrated the positive and negative effects such as its content, integration of the four skills, grammar, vocabulary exercises and the nature, topics and themes of the tasks. According to this questionnaire, more students are not satisfied with the aspects of grammar included in the grammar section of this course manual. Eighty-five (85%) prefer to do multiple choices, true or false and (90%) like to learn note and letter writing missing in the course manual. The students mentioned that the grammar section must be changed. This study recommends designing the course material according to the students' needs to achieve successful learning.

Keywords: ESP learners, needs analysis, ESL course manual