



## Language Barriers in Learning English Language in Some Selected Rural Schools in Anuradhapura District

S.M.C.N. Wijesooriya  
[s.m.c.n.wijesooriya@gmail.com](mailto:s.m.c.n.wijesooriya@gmail.com)

### Abstract

Language is one of the mediums of expressing the ideas, feelings and emotions. At present, English is one of the most used languages in the world. Accordingly, in many countries English as a foreign/second language teaching has become compulsory in both urban and rural schools. This situation is common in Sri Lanka as well. Students in rural schools perform poorly in English education compared to their urban counterparts. This study investigates the barriers faced by the teachers and students while teaching and learning English language in three rural schools in Galenbidunuwewa and Anuradhapura education zones in Anuradhapura district. To explore these issues, a cross-sectional mixed method research approach will be used; a self-administered questionnaire for 70 students in Grade 10 and 11 of the selected schools and key informative interview will be used to collect data from 05 teachers. The qualitative data is to be analyzed using thematic analysis while the quantitative data is analyzed using descriptive statistics. Unless the knowledge of English, it had been competitive to find carriers in the local and international job market. Specially, in the rural areas of Sri Lanka the students fear and shy to use English language as they are not used to the language with their social backgrounds. If the teachers become qualified and conscious to teach the rural students as well, it will be helpful for them to learn English effectively. The responsible authorities and the government should implement strategies to overcome this societal gap of urban and rural settings using effective measures. It is better if the government and non-government organizations can have long-term and short-term plans to improve English language skills of rural students. The educational objectives will remain unachieved unless teaching-learning of English is properly done.

**Keywords:** Barriers, English language, Rural schools, Teaching-learning of English

