

SYLLABUS REVISION: A NEEDS ANALYSIS STUDY

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Needs analysis is considered one of the key aspects in Curriculum and Material design. The central aim of need analysis is to discover the content areas that learners have to learn, the sections which learners have not learned yet, and the domains that learners want to learn that corresponds roughly to learners' needs, lacks and wants respectively. Needs assessments and English for Specific Purposes (ESP) are inextricably linked. Thus, a needs analysis was designed to identify the needs, wants and lacks of first level undergraduates of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kelaniya who follow English for Social Sciences. The purpose of the needs analysis is to compare the needs of the students and the needs addressed in the existing syllabus with the primary objective of making recommendations to revise the current syllabus. A sample of students was selected and a questionnaire was used as a data collection tool. Meanwhile, written essays of students were assessed to assess their current proficiency level. The course content was analyzed to determine the current needs addressed. In addition to the addressed needs of the students, a considerable number of gaps were found in the existing syllabus and necessary recommendations were identified. It is crucial to determine the specific needs of the students while prioritizing their objectives of learning the English language. The course materials should be designed systematically without deviating from the predetermined objectives. At the same time, key consideration should be given to the duration of the course and the materials should be tailored according to the schedule.

Keywords: Needs analysis, English for Specific Purposes, Curriculum, Syllabus, Course materials

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