

## **A COURSE EVALUATION THROUGH NEEDS ANALYSIS BASED ON PERCEPTIONS OF STUDENTS: COURSE IN GRAMMAR AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

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English language learners, especially at tertiary level, have specific needs in addition to those imposed and catered to by educational institutions, and the incorporation of learners' needs in real life communication is a vital element in a language syllabus. Among the primary responsibilities of an adult education institution are needs analysis and programme planning and evaluation. In the context of evaluating an ongoing course, a needs analysis serves the purpose of adjusting the course to suit the changing needs of learners. The current research focuses on a course evaluation through needs analysis based on the course in Advanced Grammar and Communication Skills (Ad. Gr & Com Skills) as perceived by students of the Diploma in English Language and Literature (DELL) Programme in order to determine what changes best support the development of the course while exploring suggestions for changes in course plans.

The feedback of 50 DELL students registered for Ad. Gr & Com Skills course were gathered through a questionnaire and analysed using descriptive statistics. Frequency distribution, percentages and Mean values were calculated in order to analyse the students' perception on interest and importance and usefulness of and satisfaction with the content of the course. Frequencies for the multiple responses were calculated in order to analyse improvement to the course according to the point of view of the students. Qualitative data were gathered on the students' overall opinion and suggested improvements and analyzed qualitatively to support the outcome of the quantitative data.

Of the responses regarding the overall opinion on the Ad. Gr & Com Skills Course, the majority were of the opinion that it was useful to develop language skills, enhance knowledge, useful to their day-to-day life and profession. As suggestions for the improvement of the course, increase in content, time allocation and course material were identified. Multiple responses of the students regarding improvement to the course indicated that for Grammar skills, content is the area which needs most improvement whereas for Presentation, Speaking and Listening skills time allocation is important. Improvement in time allocation and course material is equally important for Communicative skills in writing.

According to the demographic data, the majority had enrolled for the DELL Programme with the intention of registering for the B.A. in English and ELT. Therefore, the current study reflects their expectations for future studies. This may explain the positive responses of the majority towards the interests, importance, usefulness and satisfaction of the current course. The expectation of

the study was to utilize the outcome of the study to adjust and enhance the current Ad. Gr & Com Skills course to suit the changing needs of learners. Thus, the outcome of the study has helped determine the prospective professional requirements and further improvements in course content, teaching materials and methods.

**Keywords:** Course Evaluation, Needs Analysis, Grammar Skills, Communication Skills, Multiple Responses

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