

# A PILOT STUDY OF PROBLEM-SOLVING ABILITY AMONG UNDERGRADUATE ENGLISH STUDENTS

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**Abstract:** English is the language largely used by the students of Science, Literature, Commerce and Technology streams. So it is important for the students to learn English in any part of the world. The purpose of this study was to assess problem solving ability among English and other arts faculty undergraduate students. A total of 75 English and 75 other arts faculty undergraduate students were selected from various affiliated colleges of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad. The self design questionnaires use to measure the problem solving ability of the students . The findings of the study revealed that No significant differences were found in problem solving ability between English and other arts faculty undergraduate students.

**Keywords:** Problem-solving, English, students, undergraduate

## I. INTRODUCTION

English is the common language at global level . Students who are proficient in English have greater access to academic resources and can participate in various platform at national and International Level (Colquhoun, 2023 ).English is the primary language for higher education students as it helps them in many ways. English is the language largely used by the students of Science, Literature, Commerce and Technology streams. So it is important for the students to learn English in any part of the world (British Study Centres, 2023). Problem-solving is a systematic process that involves critical reasoning and thinking to find appropriate solutions to problems to achieve desired objectives. Problem solving is the process of overcoming obstacles to achieve a goal, which is a normal part of most activities. Problems requiring resolution range from simple personal tasks to complex issues in business and technical fields (Kaplan . Courtney Pelta 2023, Chee-Seng Tan, 2015. Singaravelu 2017, Kanmani, and Nagarathinam 2017, Agnihotri, 2015).

Problem-solving skills are the ability to identify problems, brainstorm and analyze answers, and implement the best solutions. When students consistently practice problem solving, they can develop better social and situational awareness (21st Century Skills). They will also learn to manage time properly and develop patience. Students who learn to solve problems from an early age tend to be inquisitive, resourceful, and determined. People with good problem-solving skills are a valuable and reliable asset in any team – these are the people who think of new ideas, better ways of doing things, make things easier for people to understand or Helping customers save time and money (Singaravelu 2017, Kanmani, and Nagarathinam 2017, Agnihotri, 2015, ICAEW). They are active thinkers who like to get things done. The Collins English Dictionary defines it this way: Problem solving is the act or process of finding solutions to problems, especially by using a scientific or analytical approach. This is an important everyday skill that you will need for your personal and professional life (Kaplan . Courtney Pelta 2023, 21st Century Skills, ICAEW). Undergraduate education is the education conducted after secondary education and before postgraduate education. It generally includes all post-secondary programs up to the bachelor's degree level

## II. METHODS

The method of sample was purposive –A non-random method of sampling design for English and other arts faculty undergraduate students with a specific purpose. The sample size of the study was to 75 English students and 75 other arts faculty undergraduate students who were studying in colleges affiliated to dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada university were selected for present study. The data was collected through respondents in the form self-design questionnaire from different students. The data was collected through respondents in the form of different descriptive tests. The demographic information about, age, sex, daily smoking etc. was obtained before seeking responses. To measure problem-solving of students, self design questionnaire prepared by investigator was used. The. The data was checked for accuracy and completeness and was coded and put up into the SPSS Descriptive statistics for all studied variables, mean, standard deviation and t-ratio, was considered statistically technique throughout the study and the level of significant was set-up at 0.05 level.

**Results of the study :**

The following order was adopted for results

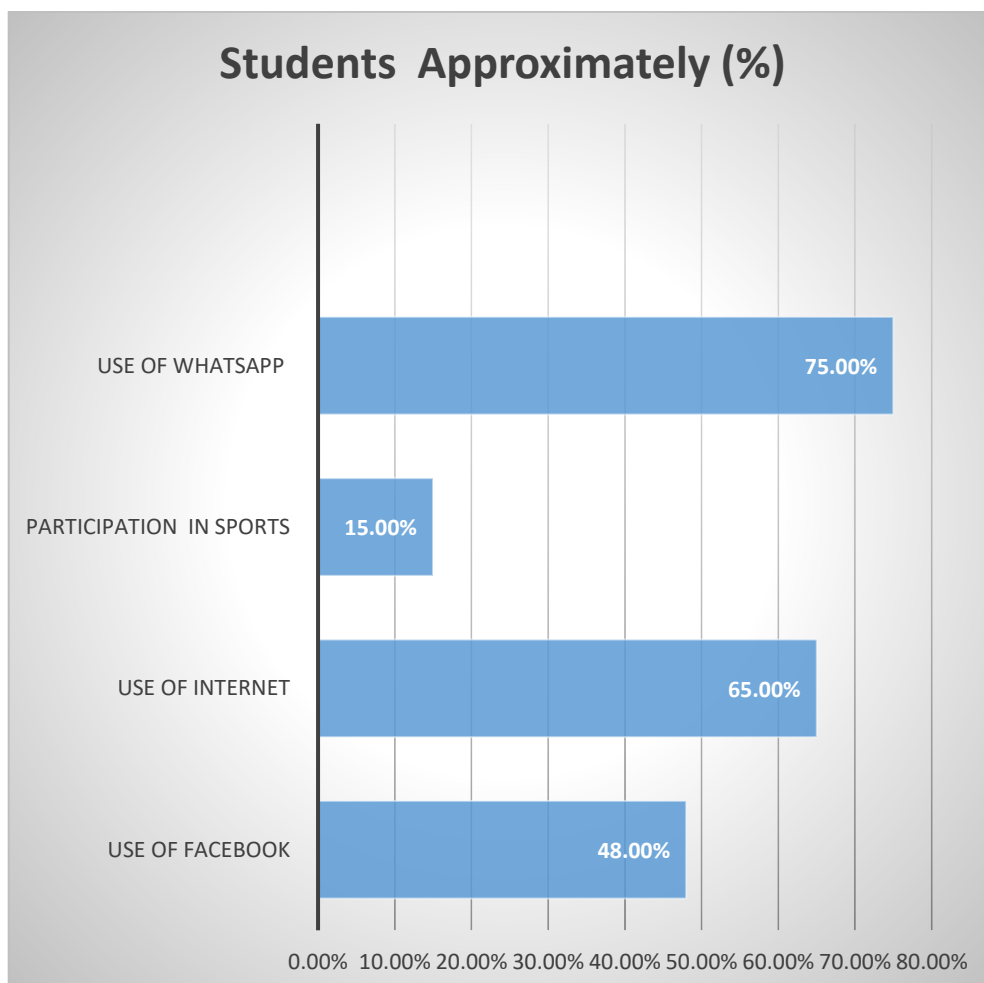
**Results and discussion**

The following order was adopted for results

**TABLE -1.  
PERSONAL INFORMATION OF ENGLISH STUDENTS**

Sr.No.	Personal characteristics	Students Approximately (%)
1	Use of Facebook	48.00 %
2	Use of Internet	65.00%
3	Participation in sports	15.00%
4.	Use of WhatsApp	75.00%

Table-1 indicates the percentage of personal information of English students. The result revealed that, 48.00 % English students used Facebook , whereas 65.00% English students used internet. 05% English students reported that they have participating in sports , while 75 .00% English students WhatsApp.

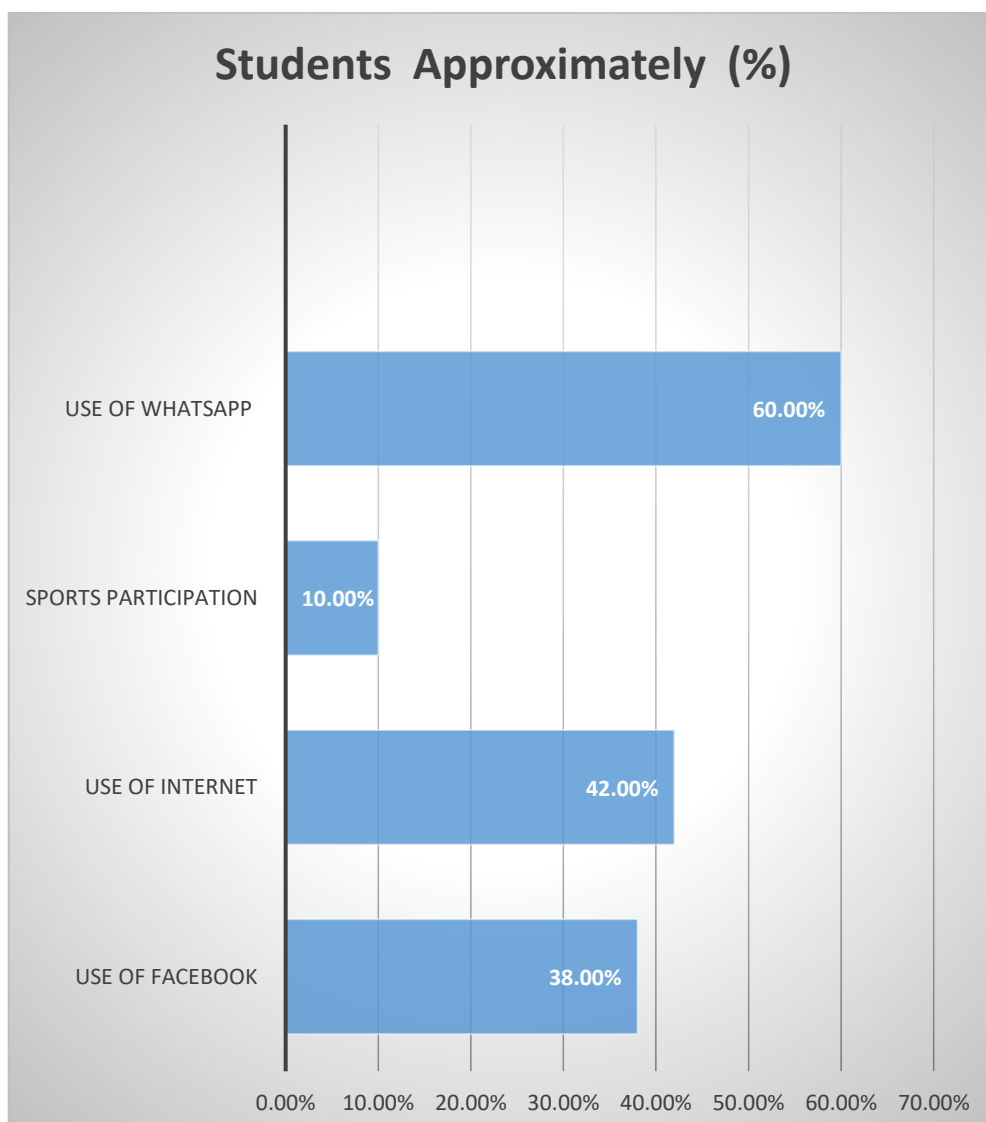


**Figure 1 shows the personal information of English students**

**TABLE -2.**  
**PERSONAL INFORMATION OF OTHER THAN ARTS FACULTY ENGLISH STUDENTS**

Sr.No.	Personal characteristics	Students Approximately (%)
1	Use of Facebook	38.00 %
2	Use of Internet	42.00%
3	Sports Participation	10.00%
4.	Use of WhatsApp	60.00%

Table-2 indicates the percentage of personal information of English students. The result revealed that, 38.00 % other than arts faculty English students used Facebook, whereas 42.00% other than Arts faculty English students used internet. 10.00% other than English students reported that they have smoked, while 60.00% other than English students WhatsApp.



**Figure 2 shows the personal information of other than English students**

**TABLE – 3**  
**Mean scores, Standard deviations and T-ratios of Self-Efficacy between English and other arts faculty undergraduate students**

Components	Students	Number	Means	S.Ds.	T-ratio
Problem-solving	English Students	75	22.65	6.87	1.45 NS
	Other students	75	22.49	6.74	

Table 1 depicted Mean Scores, Standard Deviation and t-ratio of the Problem-solving between English and other students. The mean scores problem-solving of English students were obtained 22.65 and the mean scores of problem-solving of other students were obtained 22.49 respectively. Meanwhile, the standards deviation problem-solving of English students were recoded 6.87 and the standards deviation of problem-solving of other than English students were recoded 6.87 respectively. The result given in Table 3 reveals that no significant difference of problem-solving was found between English and other students. Problem-solving is a key skill needed to adapt to changes and meet challenges. Problem-solving is a mental process that involves searching, analyzing, and solving problems. The ultimate goal of problem-solving is to overcome obstacles and find a solution that best solves the problem (Icaew)

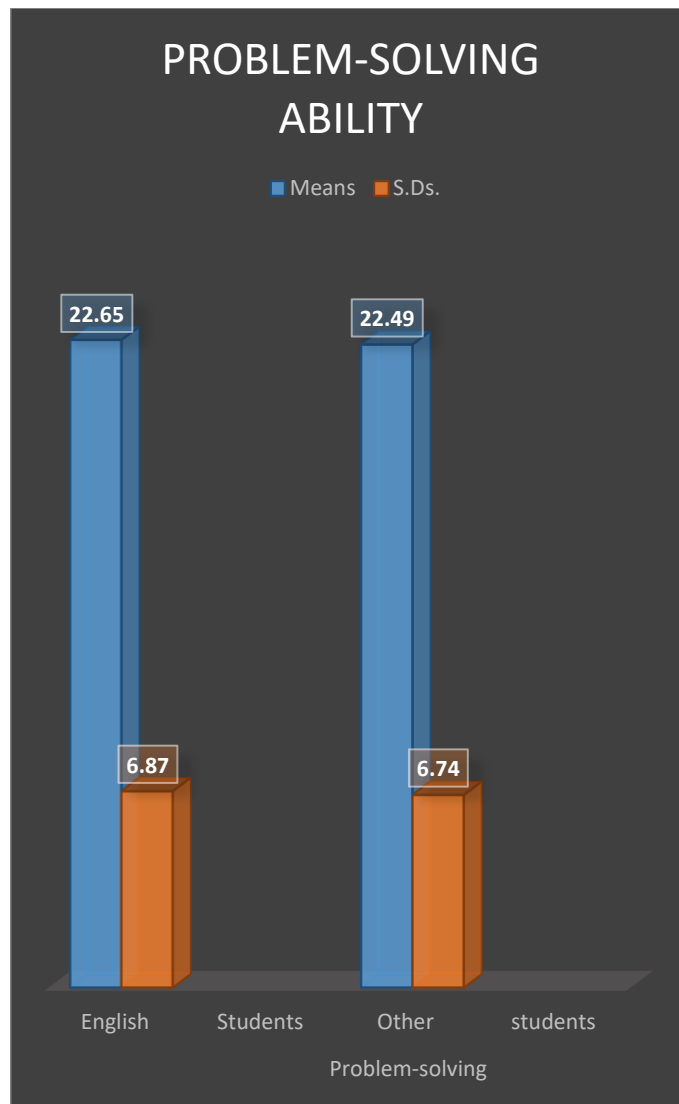


Figure : 3 shows the Mean Scores and Standard Deviation of the Problem-solving between English and other students

**TABLE – 4**

**Mean scores, Standard deviations and t-ratios of problem-solving ability between Female English and other arts faculty undergraduate students**

Components	Students	Number	Means	S.Ds.	T-ratio
Problem-solving	English Students	34	21.30	6.12	1.29 NS
	Other students	37	22.98	6.66	

Table 4 depicted Mean Scores, Standard Deviation and t-ratio of the Problem-solving between English and other students. The mean scores problem-solving of English students were obtained 21.30 and the mean scores of problem-solving of other students were obtained 22.98 respectively. Meanwhile, the standards deviation problem-solving of English students were recoded 6.12 and the standards deviation of problem-solving of other than English students were recoded 6.66 respectively. The result given in Table 4 reveals that no significant difference of problem-solving was found between English and other students. Problem-solving is a key skill needed to adapt to changes and meet challenges .

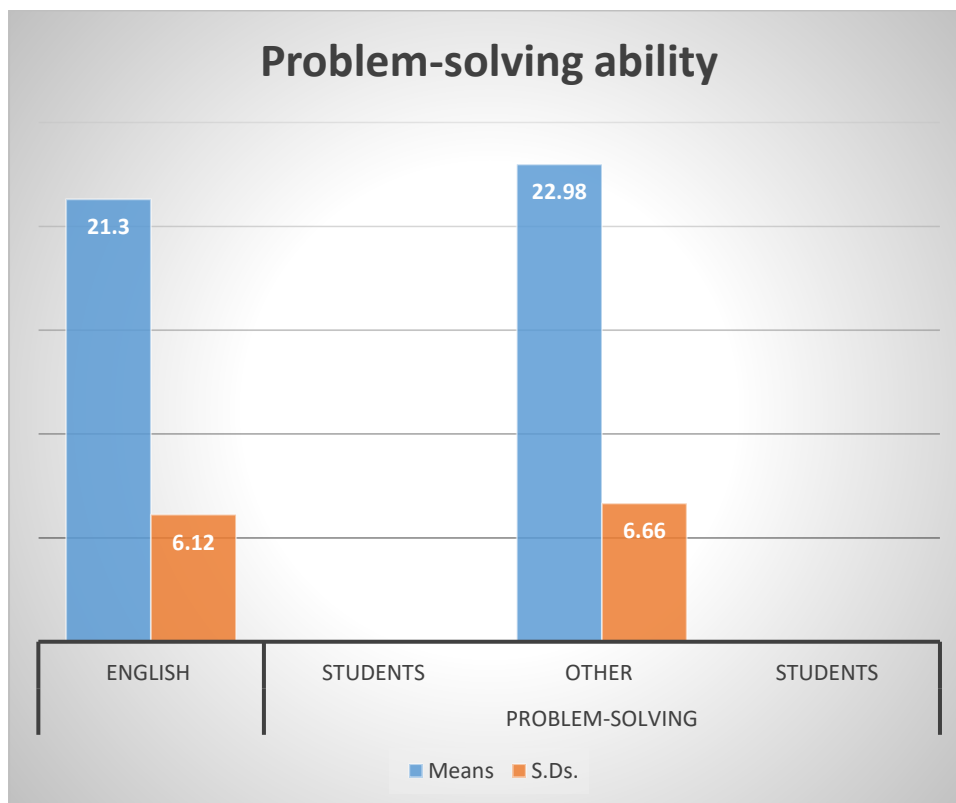


Figure : 4 Mean scores and Standard deviations and t-ratios of problem-solving ability between Female English and other arts faculty undergraduate students

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